FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 239 *12 December 1978*

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PLO's Qaddumi Meets With Iranian Opposition Leader Khomeyni A 1
Syrian Foreign Minister Opens Arab-European Dialog in Damascus A 1
Subcommittees Meet A 2
UAE Minister Recommends 'Reasonable' Price Increase for OPEC A 2
Arab Oil Ministers Arrive in Abu Dhabi for OAPEC Conference A 5
Qatari Minister Makes Statement A 5
Ministerial Council Meeting Opens A 6
Sessions To Be Closed A 7
PLO Representatives in Paris Comments on King Husayn A 7
'Arafat Criticizes French Policy on Palestinian Rights A 7
[Paris LE MONDE 10-11 Dec]

ARABIAN PENINSULA

BAHRAIN

Kuwaiti Crown Prince Leaves for Qatar Following Visit C 1

KUWAIT

AL-ANBA' Scores Nobel Award to 'Terrorist' Begin C 1

SAUDI ARABIA

Papers Comment on 'Mockery' of Nobel Award to Begin C 1
Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives in Riyadh 11 December C 2
Talks With King, Departs C 2
Zaire's President Mobutu Arrives in Riyadh for Talks C 2
Meets With King C 2

UAE

Vatican Envoy Arrives in Abu Dhabi With Message From Pope C 3

YEMEN--YAR

President Leaves San'a' for State Visit to Oman C 3
Arrives in Muscat C 3
Closed Meeting Held C 4

BRIEFS

Saudi Ambassador to YAR; Ambassadors to UAE C 4

EGYPT

Vance Meets Press Following Round of Talks D 1
Leaves for Israel D 2
Musa Sabri Views Chances of Peace, Soviet Stand [AL-AKHBAR 6 Dec] D 2
As-Sadat Cables Waldheim on Human Rights Day D 6
Formation of Socialist Labor Party Approved D 6

IRAQ

Reportage on Official Talks in Moscow E 1
INA: Talks Begin E 1
Foreign Ministers Meet E 1
Soviet Media Coverage [cross-reference] E 1
Iraqi-Soviet Friendship Society Meets in Baghdad E 2
NOVOSTI Delegation Arrives in Baghdad on Visit E 2
Oil Minister Arrives in Abu Dhabi, Makes Statement E 2
Iraqi-Austrian Official Talks Begin in Vienna E 3
Presidential Envoy Leaves for Algeria, Libya E 3

JORDAN

Iraqi President's Envoy Arrives With Message for Husayn F 1
Husayn Receives Ramadan F 1
Ramadan Departs F 1
King Husayn Leaves Amman on European Tour F 1
Arrives in Paris F 2
French President Hosts Dinner F 2
French Reportage [cross-reference] F 3
PLO Delegation To Arrive Saturday To Resume Dialog F 3
Briefs: Ambassador Transferred; Envoys Present Credentials; Soviet Journalists Delegation F 3

LEBANON

Prime Minister Comments on Lebanese Topics G 1
Further Reportage G 1
Interior Minister Condemns Attack on Ambassador G 2
French Ambassador Meets With Butrus, Answers Questions G 2
Official Comments on Internal Situation, Amman Talks [Amman AD-DUSTUR 8 Dec] G 3
'Rejectionists' Try to Kidnap Norwegian Envoy G 4
Voice of Lebanon Reports 11 Dec Sniping Incidents G 4
Security Situation on Morning of 12 December Reported G 4
Rightist Militiamen Exchange Fire With Lebanese Soldiers G 5
Beirut Reports Two Soldiers Killed G 5

SYRIA

Further Reportage on Visit of Netherlands Foreign Minister H 1
Dinner Speeches H 1
Official Talks H 1
Meeting With Al-Asad H 2
Visit Ends H 2
Al-Asad Cables Waldheim on Human Rights Day H 2

Khaddam Returns to Damascus From Riyadh, Hosts Banquet H 3
Foreign Minister Khaddam Views As-Sadat, Camp David H 3
Papers Criticize Nobel Prize, Israeli-Egyptian Talks H 6
Damascus Criticizes Cyrus Vance's Current Tour H 8

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Algiers Reports Boumediene Condition Unchanged I 1

LIBYA

Syria's Khaddam Holds Talks in Tripoli, Leaves for Algeria I 1
Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Libyan Chambers of Commerce I 1

MAURITANIA

Contacts With POLISARIO Reportedly Reestablished I 6

SUDAN

Numayri Outlines Support for Camp David Accords I 7

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO Expects Mauritania To Eliminate Causes of War I 7

ISRAEL

Secretary Vance Arrives, Meets With Dayan N 1
U.S. Proposal Reported N 1
POST Gives Details [12 Dec] N 1
MA'ARIV on Issue [12 Dec] N 2
Vance Leaves for Cairo N 3
U.S. Delegation to Mrs Meir's Funeral Arrives N 3
Begin Holds News Conference in Oslo, Returns Home N 3
Arrives in Israel N 4
DMC Members Reportedly To Vote for National Service Bill N 4
MAFDAL Withdrawal Threat [MA'ARIV 11 Dec] N 5
Corfu Expects No Crisis [HA'AREZ 11 Dec] N 6
MAFDAL Holds More Consultations N 7
Iranian Jews Arrive, Comment on Situation N 7
Khomeyni Remarks Reported N 8
Preparations for Immigration N 8
POST: Gush Emunin Planning Unauthorized Settlements [11 Dec] N 9
W. Bank Settlement Given Preferred Development Status [MA'ARIV 11 Dec] N 9
Supreme Court Discusses West Bank Landowners' Appeal N 9

IRAN

Tehran Reports Marches in Capital, Provinces R 1
Demonstrations End Without Incident R 1
'Politically Charged' Demonstration Reported in Esfahan R 2
Eight Reported Dead R 2
Further Violent Incidents R 2

Longer Curfew Hours Reestablished After Days of Mourning R 3
Shah Orders Nonobservance of Azarbayjan Deliverance Day R 3
Airport To Resume Activity; Flights Scheduled R 3
Tehran Primary Schools To Reopen 13 December R 4
Tehran: 705 Prisoners Freed After Human Rights Day Pardon R 4
KYODO: National Front Official Warns of Increased Violence R 4
Communist Participation in Regional Demonstrations Described R 5
New Work Hours Announced for Abadan Oil Workers R 5
Issuance of New Curfew Passes to Officials in Abadan Reported R 5
Curfew Hours Unchanged in Ahvaz, Vicinity R 5
Correspondent Talks With Anti-Shah, Anti-U.S. Demonstrators R 6
Khomeyni: Opposition Will Start Armed Struggle 'Soon' R 6
[Brussels LE SOIR 5 Dec]
Khomeyni Discusses Cutting Oil to Countries Supporting Shah R 8
Sanjabi: 'No Cooperation Possible' With Shah's Regime R 8
[Turin LA STAMPA 8 Dec]

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

Foreign Minister Amin Interviewed by Budapest Radio S 1

BANGLADESH

Labor Party Not to Participate in Elections S 2

INDIA

Situation in Jammu Quiet After Communal Disturbances S 2
Zambia's Lisulo Leaves Delhi for Agra, Home S 2
Joint Communique S 3
Desai Moves To Punish Gandhi for Contempt S 3

NEPAL

Some Ministers Resign; Portfolios Shuffled S 4
AFP Gives Background S 4

PAKISTAN

Bhutto's Lawyer, Mrs Bhutto Clash Over Handling of Case S 5

SRI LANKA

Minister Tells Press Conference of Trade With PRC S 6
Arson Attempt Made on Opposition Headquarters in Jaffna S 6

PLO'S QADDUMI MEETS WITH IRANIAN OPPOSITION LEADER KHOMEYNI

LD2414347 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Nov 78 LD

[Adrian Drumond dispatch]

[Text] Paris--Informed sources stated here today that the head of the PLO Political Department, Faruq Qaddumi, has met with the leader of the Iranian opposition, Ayatollah Khomeyni, at his residence in the French capital. They went on to say that Qaddumi handed the Shi'ite imam a message from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Khomeyni lives in exile in Paris after leaving Iraq, where he spent 15 years, and is leading the anti-shah movement.

After the meeting, PLO representative Ibrahim Sus stated that "our support for the Iranian opposition equals our opposition in principle to the shah." Sus said that the shah of Iran supplies Israel with oil, which Khomeyni opposes "and that the Khomeyni struggle against the shah is a struggle against imperialism, the same struggle we are waging."

Qaddumi's meeting with Khomeyni coincides with statements made by French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, to the effect that Khomeyni has been warned twice that France is a refuge for him and will not tolerate calls for violence from its territory. Last August the Iranian Government accused the opposition of being under the control of Marxist-Leninists and, in particular, of "the PLO." Sus declared that if Imam Khomeyni, who "warmly received us," asks for our assistance, we will study this; however "we do not believe that this assistance will include weapons." The organization's representative in Paris said that, in any case, "the organization has long cooperated closely with the Moslem opposition to the shah, including the left."

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER OPENS ARAB-EUROPEAN DIALOG IN DAMASCUS

JN0913117 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Dec 78 JN

[Text] This morning, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam opened the meetings of the fourth session of the Arab-European dialog, in the presence of delegations representing all Arab countries, the EEC and the Arab League General Secretariat.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam made an important speech. He welcomed the convention of this session in Damascus. He hoped that the meetings would result in resolutions that would boost the Arab-European dialog and strengthen ties between the two regions in various spheres.

Khaddam said that the basic premise that will boost the new Arab-European relations can only be insured through the spirit that grew out of the UN Charter, a spirit of just peace and genuine cooperation, based on equal sovereignty and respect for the right to self-determination and human rights, and keeping force and faits accomplis out [istib'ad al-amr al-waqi'] of international relations.

Khaddam stressed that solidarity between the two blocs can only be achieved if the European group will show understanding of the just Arab cause and support it, because it is a question of people who were forced out of their homeland as well as a question of the entire Arab nation. It is a question of self-determination for the Palestinian people, of recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of this people, of supporting it in accordance with UN resolutions and of ending assistance to the aggressor.

Khaddam also said that the European group is capable of strongly demanding that the search for a just peace be based on guaranteeing the Palestinian people's national rights and complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory under UN supervision, within the context of UN resolutions on this question.

Khaddam stressed that however numerous the methods of dividing the Arab ranks, the Arab nation will reject separate solutions and will strengthen its ability to remain steadfast in the face of all plots hatched against its rights and sovereignty.

Khaddam continued by saying that the Camp David agreements created a new hotbed of tension in the area. These agreements did not help in finding a just and comprehensive peace in the area or serve the cause of peace. These agreements created new obstacles to a just solution and lasting peace.

Referring to the conference of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation, to the joint national action charter between Syria and Iraq, and to the Baghdad summit conference, Khaddam said that all of this is an indication of the nation's vigilance, steadfastness and adherence to its complete rights and practice of overcoming any setback it encounters.

Khaddam stressed Syria's support for Arab-European dialog. Syria views this dialog as the way to guarantee rapprochement and understanding between the two regions. Syria depends on its accomplishments in economic, technical and intellectual cooperation.

Concluding his speech, Khaddam said: The more our European friends show understanding of the true peace we seek, a just peace--and at the same time, a peace that implies progress and prosperity for all our broad masses--the easier it becomes for the two sides to understand each other and to establish fruitful cooperation in all our peoples' interests. Khaddam expressed the hope that this session will emphasize and strengthen this understanding and cooperation.

Subcommittees Meet

JN101354Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Dec 78 JN

[Text] The two subcommittees of the general committee for the Arab-European dialog held a meeting today in the Meridien Hotel in Damascus. The subcommittees prepared the final statement of the general committee meetings. The statement deals with the political aspects of the dialog and the reports of the various subcommittees.

The general committee is expected to hold its final session tomorrow morning to issue its joint statement.

UAE MINISTER RECOMMENDS 'REASONABLE' PRICE INCREASE FOR OPEC

JN111850Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Text of interview given by Dr Mani' Sa'id al-Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, in Abu Dhabi on 11 December]

[Text] Question: All Arab and world quarters have for some time been following reports on the forthcoming OPEC conference, particularly those pertaining to the oil price increase. In your opinion, what has led to this oil price increase?

Answer: All economic and political indications suggest that this increase is necessary. The last increase approved by OPEC was 2 years ago. Since then, the price of commodities and services imported from the industrial countries has more than doubled.

Furthermore, we find that inflation in general has negatively affected our oil revenues, particularly since the rate of inflation in the oil producing countries is much higher than in the industrial countries. Over the past 2 years, the industrial countries have managed to reduce and check inflation, and it now ranges between 6 and 8 percent. However, the rate of inflation in the UAE and other gulf states tops 25 percent, not to mention the continuous drop in the value of the dollar, which is the primary currency for our investments and the monetary unit for our oil. Thus, our loss in the dollar is a dual one.

As we are concerned with safeguarding our peoples' national interests, we feel that all these factors make it incumbent upon us to compensate for this large loss, even if only partially, by raising the price of oil within reasonable limits.

At the same time, we should study the negative effects on our economies and investments, and on the developing and industrial countries--negative effects that might result from an oil price increase. Whether we like it or not, our economy is linked to their economies. Furthermore, we should take all these factors into consideration when we decide to amend or increase the price of oil. We hae a lot to do in reaching a mature and balanced decision that can be defended and justified.

Question: What about the factors of supply and demand in the oil market? Do these factors allow such an increase?

Answer: The oil market currently allows such an increase. Circumstances suggest that a balance exists between supply and demand. International and regional circumstances also offer justification for a reasonable increase in oil prices.

Question: Don't you think that a price increase might have a negative effect on the dollar?

Answer: This is likely and has been considered. Furthermore, we have always asked for a reasonable and balanced increase. Any increase that goes beyond a reasonable or sensitive extent might have great negative effects on the dollar. Therefore, a big drop in the value of the dollar might consume the increase passed on in our oil prices. We must be very accurate when we calculate this increase. This might look easy on the surface, but it is actually a very delicate and precise calculation.

Question: Do you think there will be serious discussions to look for an alternative to the dollar in pricing--a basket of currencies, for instance?

Answer: I should make it clear that there should be no confusion between a basket of currencies and the dollar. A basket of currencies does not dispense with a currency to calculate oil prices. The dollar will stay, even if a basket of currencies is used. If this is agreed upon--and it might not be necessary under current circumstances--then there will be two kinds of dollar. The stable dollar [ad-dular ath-thabit], which will be backed by the basket and which concerns us, for we will use it to calculate our oil revenues; and the daily fluctuating dollar, which is being used in day-to-day market dealings.

Question: Iraq has announced that it is ready to accept a minimal increase in oil prices in order to preserve OPEC unity. Can you explain the term "minimal"?

Answer: The time has not come to talk about a minimum or about any price. The increment percentage must be left to the conference itself. We can only say that there is a general agreement on an increment, which must be balanced, reasonable and justifiable to the whole world.

Question: The Saudi press reports said that the oil price increase may be in installments and that the installments need not be equal. Does this policy find support among OPEC members?

Answer: Such issues, in our opinion, are only procedural measures relating to details. The mechanism of the forthcoming decision is not important. It is important to agree on the principles. How the increment will be effected will be left to the ministers who will meet and decide what is in their interest.

Question: Do you believe that the OPEC position is weakened by the appearance of big oil producers outside OPEC, such as Mexico and Britain? What sort of relations would you like to see between the two sides?

Answer: We cannot say that the OPEC position has weakened because of the appearance of new producers or because new members have joined the club of oil exporters. The OPEC position was affected in the oil market because of the appearance of new oil buyers. These buyers have and still benefit from OPEC decisions. Of course, if the new producers join OPEC, it will be stronger. I have invited producing states such as Mexico, China, Norway and Britain to join OPEC; by joining the organization they will protect their interests and strengthen OPEC, because joint action is more powerful than disunited action.

Question: It has been said that OPEC became weak because of the lack of method or system to price oil. What is your opinion?

Amswer: This talk about OPEC's weakness has become quite boring. The OPEC states are convinced that they will remain strong as long as they are under the auspices of this organization. These states are eager to preserve OPEC's unity and to defend it. We are fed up with this talk about the OPEC's weakness.

Question: What about the system?

Answer: We might have wished that OPEC were able to employ a fixed system for oil prices. Establishing such a system has been so difficult that the OPEC states were not able to employ a framework for such a system. The difficulty arises from numerous issues, most of which are beyond the ability of the OPEC states to deal with, in view of their political, economic and social aspects. There are also international changes that preclude establishing a fixed, permanent oil price system.

Question: What, in your opinion, is the method by which the OPEC states could help other developing states set a fixed price on their raw materials?

Answer: At present, we consider OPEC a model for the other developing states that produce raw materials. In 1973 and 1974, when the OPEC states succeeded in correcting the price system and in restoring their rights, OPEC gave the cue to the other developing and raw material-producing states to form blocs. OPEC proved to these states that collective bargaining is very effective, unlike unilateral action, which cannot restore any rights.

Question: After your return from Iraq and Saudi Arabia, you spoke about bringing the views of the OPEC members closer together. Is the gap still wide? And do you think that the forthcoming OPEC conference will come out with a unified decision expressing the consensus of OPEC members?

Answer: His Highness Shaykh Zayid has entrusted me to prepare for this conference and sent with me letters to the kings and presidents of the OPEC states. And when I found that this preparatory work began to be effective in closing the gaps among OPEC states, I had to visit certain states more than once. After three tours, I returned with a feeling of optimism that the states I visited were ready to make balanced decisions. They were reasonable and eager to preserve OPEC unity. The OPEC states must come out with unanimous decisions, and the forthcoming Abu Dhabi conference must end with the members more united, and the decisions must be balanced, reasonable, honorable and defensible.

I still feel this optimism, along with my Arab and non-Arab colleagues. We are awaiting the arrival of the delegations, which will have the final say on all matters to be discussed.

ARAB OIL MINISTERS ARRIVE IN ABU DHABI FOR OAPEC CONFERENCE

JN111027Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 December--The ministers attending tomorrow's meeting of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries [OAPEC] have begun to arrive. Libyan Petroleum Minister 'Izz ad-Din al-Mabruk arrived early this morning. Al-Mabruk said upon arrival that an increase in the oil price has become inevitable.

Al-Mabruk added that the decision to increase the oil price has already been made and that it remains to decide the amount of increase. This is to be left to the OAPEC meeting, he said. Al-Mabruk said: The question of increasing the oil price was forcibly imposed on us.

Syrian Oil and Natural Resources Minister 'Isa Darwish arrived on the same plane with the Libyan minister. The two ministers were met at the airport by Shaykh al-Hamili, under secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources, and by several ministry officials. They were also met by Libyan Ambassador 'Abd al-Qadir Ghuqah and Syrian Ambassador 'Adnan as-Safi.

Egyptian Petroleum Minister Dr 'Izz ad-Din Hilal arrived late last night. Hilal said that OAPEC is the most active Arab economic group. The delegations of Kuwait, Bahrain and Iraq are expected to arrive tonight.

Qatari Minister Makes Statement

JN120808Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 December--Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari finance and oil minister, arrived in Abu Dhabi from Doha this morning to attend the OAPEC conference today and the OPEC meetings on 16 December. He was received at the airport by Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, and by several ministry officials.

In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY upon arrival, the Qatari oil minister said that the oil price increase has become an inevitable issue. He added that it remains for the conference to adopt the necessary collective resolution to fix the percentage of increase.

He asserted that the OAPEC meeting will achieve successful results and will adopt appropriate resolutions serving the OAPEC interests, future and people as well as world interests.

The Qatari oil minister expressed his pleasure at holding the two conferences in the UAE and wished them success and progress.

Ministerial Council Meeting Opens

LD120948Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0740 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi--The meeting of the OAPEC Ministerial Council, which will go on for 2 days, began in Abu Dhabi this morning.

The minister of petroleum and natural resources of the UAE, Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-Utaybah, delivered a speech at the opening session.

He expressed his pleasure and that of the UAE at hosting the conference. He said that these are historic hours and that his country is honored with this role. He said that OAPEC currently represents the best example of unified Arab action, and stressed the need to preserve the organization's unity. He said: We should keep the organization within its technical and economic framework and away from political currents. He said that joint Arab action is something which every Arab is very pleased to see.

Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-Utaybah said that OAPEC has taken considerable steps and succeeded in a number of joint projects. He expressed his satisfaction with the fact that the organization has begun to implement its 5-year plan, in accordance with an agenda. This agenda, he added, contains a list of new projects that the organization will carry out both now and in future. He called for backing the organization's projects and for assisting these projects in every way, so that they will always remain landmarks along the path of joint Arab action.

He said: We call on this organization to give us more joint action and more joint projects.

After Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah's speech the conference held a closed session.

The conference is discussing a number of issues including the establishment of an Arab oil institute in Baghdad, the construction of a drydock in the Mediterranean, a study of the reports and recommendations relating to the meetings called for by the organization, as well as reports on preparation for the energy conference to be held in March in Abu Dhabi.

[Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic at 0755 GMT on 12 December adds: The meetings of this session are being attended by Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources; Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah, Kuwaiti oil minister; Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Iraqi oil minister; Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari oil minister; Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi petroleum mineral affairs minister; Dr 'Izz ad-Din Hilal, Egyptian petroleum minister; 'Isa Darwish, Syrian minister of oil and natural resources; 'Izz ad-Din al-Mabruk, Libyan petroleum minister; and Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, under secretary of the Bahraini Ministry of Development and Industry. Algerian Energy and Petrochemical Industries Minister Ahmed Ghozali is due to arrive in Abu Dhabi this evening.]

Sessions To Be Closed

LD121012Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0922 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi--Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, secretary general of OAPEC and UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, announced that the OAPEC sessions will take place behind closed doors and will be confined to the delegations.

PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN PARIS COMMENTS ON KING HUSAYN

LD111641Y Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 11 Dec 78 LD

[Interview conducted with Abrahim Sousse, PLO representative in Paris, by two radio correspondents--live]

[Excerpt] [Question] Mr Sousse, King Husayn is arriving in Paris. He is in a peculiar situation. Can he speak on behalf of the Palestinians, to a certain extent, now that his relations with Yasir 'Arafat have become clearer?

[Answer] Indeed, relations with King Husayn of Jordan have improved, but there is still a long way to go before reaching (?full) understanding between the two sides. Having said this, nobody can speak on behalf of the Palestinians except the PLO. The PLO is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. But on the other hand, King Husayn of Jordan also sees his own interest in the dialog with the PLO. Therefore, I think that he can speak about these problems since he is a party (?to them).

'ARAFAT CRITICIZES FRENCH POLICY ON PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

LD111629Y Paris LE MONDE in French 10-11 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has confirmed his rejection of the Camp David agreements which, he says, "legalize the Israeli occupation."

"Find me a single article in the Camp David agreements that mentions liberation of the Palestinian territories or the Palestinian people's rights," Yasir 'Arafat declared in an interview granted in Beirut to Radio Monte Carlo and a group of representatives from the French regional daily press. Asked to confirm news that he himself has claimed that "the PLO would be prepeared to grant de facto recognition to the State of Israel under certain circumstances," he replied: "Can Israel be afraid of a small Palestinian state when it threatens the whole Arab world? Israel possesses the most sophisticated weapons.... It is I who needs guarantees."

Mr 'Arafat also deplored the fact that "French policy is at present a shadow of American Near East policy." "I regret," he said, "that France does not take the initiative of defending its Near East interests. I do not want to embarrass anyone. It is merely a democratic way of saying things openly. Liberty, equality and fraternity are a tricolor triangle which should be respected. "What we ask of France," he continued, "is to be more courageous in helping the Palestinian people. For example, we would like France in Europe, in the Common Market, in view of its special position among Western countries, to take initiative in favor of recognizing the Palestinian people's rights."

BAHRAIN

KUWAITI CROWN PRINCE LEAVES FOR QATAR FOLLOWING VISIT

JN0911411Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpts] Manama, 9 December--His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah, Kuwaiti crown prince and prime minister, left Manama this afternoon for Doha, concluding a 4-day visit to Bahrain as part of his current tour of some gulf states.

At 2000 today a joint statement will be released on the results of His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah's visit to Bahrain.

KUWAIT

AL-ANBA' SCORES NOBEL AWARD TO 'TERRORIST' BEGIN

LD111116Y Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 11 December--Kuwait's AL-ANBA' has launched a strong attack against granting the Nobel Prize to Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, saying that to consider Begin a champion of peace is an historic farce.

In an article today, the paper says: True, the history of the Nobel Prize has witnessed many examples of prejudice and political trickery, but the Nobel Prize has never been insulted as much as it was yesterday.

Begin, the paper adds, was laughing when he received the prize, but he was not laughing out of joy at being a champion for peace--he was laughing through mockery of those who granted him the Nobel Prize while knowing that he had come to Oslo with hands drenched with the blood of children, women and innocent old people.

The paper adds that the Nobel Prize committee should have remembered, while declaring him a peace prize winner, that he is the only terrorist who came to power--indeed, the worse example among terrorists. Some terrorists had repented and then came to power, but Begin, even when receiving the Nobel Prize, was telling the world that he will remain in the trenches of murderers, usurpers of the people's rights and butchers of nations.

Concluding, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' writes: It would have been more correct for President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat to have rejected the second half of the prize, since the first half was given to that butcher. An honorable woman would never consort with a whore. We wish President as-Sadat had not done so.

SAUDI ARABIA

PAPERS COMMENT ON 'MOCKERY' OF NOBEL AWARD TO BEGIN

LD111124Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 11 December--Saudi Arabia's AL-MADINAH has criticized the organizers of the Nobel Peace Prize for granting the prize to terrorist Begin. The paper writes that together with other terrorists, Begin brought waves of massacre and devastation against peaceful, innocent people, the most minor of which should be sufficient to make him a criminal, deserving the death penalty by any law or tradition.

The paper describes the award of the Nobel Prize to Begin as the biggest act of mockery committed against peace and its supporters everywhere.

Another Saudi newspaper, AN-NADWAH, writes that granting the Nobel Prize to terrorist Begin, besides recording his name as a worker for peace in the annals of history, clearly shows the fallacy of the Nobel Prize, which Zionism dominates and which it diverted from its purpose.

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN RIYADH 11 DECEMBER

JN110947Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0938 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 11 December--Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Riyadh at noon today.

He was welcomed by Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state; and [name indistinct] under secretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs.

Talks With King, Departs

JN111641Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held talks at noon today with His Majesty King Khalid of Saudi Arabia. The talks focused on the current Arab situation.

Mr Khaddam arrived in Riyadh today on a short visit and left Riyadh this evening upon conclusion of his talks with Saudi officials.

ZAIRE'S PRESIDENT MOBUTU ARRIVES IN RIYADH FOR TALKS

LD111444Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0830 GMT 11 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 11 December--President Sese Seko Mobutu of Zaire arrived in Riyadh at 1110 today on a visit to the kingdom. King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz headed the welcoming delegation at the airport.

Meets With King

LD111736Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh--At 1645 today, His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received President Sese Seko Mobutu of Zaire and his accompanying delegation, which includes the ministers of foreign affairs, planning, energy and finance.

The meeting was attended by Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation; Dr Rashad Fir'awn, special adviser to the king; Dr Ghazi 'al-Qusaybi, minister of industry and electricity; and Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Mansuri, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry in Charge of Political Affairs.

UAE

VATICAN ENVOY ARRIVES IN ABU DHABI WITH MESSAGE FROM POPE

JN111402Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1250 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 December--Today, Rashid 'Abdallah an-Nu'aymi, minister of state for foreign affairs, received (Giovanni Moretti), envoy of Pope John Paul II and Vatican representative in Khartoum, who is currently visiting the UAE.

The Vatican envoy said he is carrying a message addressed to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan from His Holiness Pope John Paul II. Following the meeting, the pope's representative explained that his talks with An-Nu'aymi dealt with bilateral relations and the religious dialog between Moslems and Christians. He emphasized that his holiness the pope looks forward to working together with the Islamic world to confront atheism and materialism. He added that during his current tour in the gulf area he will convey messages from Pope John Paul II to leaders of the gulf states.

The Vatican envoy arrived in the country early this morning on a week-long visit to the UAE.

YEMEN--YAR

PRESIDENT LEAVES SAN'A' FOR STATE VISIT TO OMAN

LD111946Y Rabat MAP in English 1211 GMT 11 Dec 78 LD

[Text] San'a', Dec11, MAP--'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the North Yemen President, left here Monday for a state visit to Oman. 'Ali 'Abdallah and Omani statesmen will hold talks on bilateral cooperation and on the Arab conflicts.

Arrives in Muscat

JN111415Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpts] At 1100 today, Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, arrived at Muscat International Airport heading an official delegation on a visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

This visit comes at the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id. President Salih was accorded a grand reception. Sultan Qabus led those who welcomed the president and the accompanying delegation.

President Salih made the following statement upon arrival at Muscat Airport: I am delighted to visit the fraternal Sultanate of Oman and become acquainted with its achievements. I would like to convey greetings and love from the Yemeni people to the Arab Moslem people of Oman. I hope that this visit will help open new, broad opportunities for cooperation between the two fraternal countries, to contribute to the security and stability of the Arabian Peninsula [words indistinct] and to keep this area free of foreign conflicts.

It has been learned that the Yemeni-Omani official talks are due to begin at 1500 this afternoon at Al-'Alam Palace in Muscat.

President Salih and the accompanying delegation left San'a' International Airport at 0800. Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, the vice president and speaker of the People's Constituent Council, led those who saw the president off.

The accompanying delegation comprises Lt Gen [name indistinct] al-Kilabi, chief of the president's office; the personal representative of President Salih; [words indistinct]; Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj; 'Ali as-Saman, minister of Awqaf; Lt Col 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Barati, minister of interior; Salih al-Jamali, minister of supply and trade; Ahmad (ar-Radi), secretary general of the presidential office, as well as other military and civilian officials; the YAR ambassador in Muscat also joined the delegation.

Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj made the following statement to the SABA' NEWS AGENCY correspondent:

This visit comes within the framework of several other visits that President Salih intends to pay to states in the area. These visits aim at further strengthening YAR relations with these fraternal countries. The president will also discuss issues of common interest and activate the YAR coordination committees with these countries. He said that this current visit will be restricted to the Sultanate of Oman. However, President Salih still plans to visit other fraternal countries.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has assigned Lt Col 'Ali ash-Shayba, chief of staff, as acting commander in chief during his absence.

Closed Meeting Held

JN112022Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpt] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, held a closed meeting this evening at the Al-'Alam palace with his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman. During the 2-hour meeting, relations between the two fraternal countries and means of strengthening them were discussed. The discussions also dealt with the general Arab situation and the situation in the Arabian Peninsula.

The official talks between the YAR and the Sultanate of Oman began at 1600 today in Muscat under President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and His Majesty Sultan Qabus of Oman.

BRIEFS

SAUDI AMBASSADOR TO YAR--Tirad 'Abdallah al-Harithi today presented his credentials to YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the YAR. The presentation ceremony was held in the presidential palace, and the president and the ambassador exchanged friendly speeches. [San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Dec 78 JN]

AMBASSADORS TO UAE--Today, President of the UAE Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received the ambassadors of Bangladesh and Mauritania at the end of their terms in the UAE. [Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN]

VANCE MEETS PRESS FOLLOWING ROUND OF TALKS

NC111945Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 11 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 11 December--President Anwar as-Sadat and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance held a joint press conference this evening after their round of talks at Al-Qanatir al-Khayriyah resthouse.

In a statement after the talks, which lasted 1 hour and 20 minutes, Vance said: I greatly appreciate this opportunity to meet once again with President as-Sadat. As you know, we met this morning with the prime minister and with a number of other ministers to continue the talks we began last night with President as-Sadat. We made progress [word indistinct] the talks, and we have not completed the talks yet. There are still one or two subjects which we shall study and discuss tomorrow after I return from Golda Meir's funeral. My colleagues and I will meet with the prime minister, and then I will return and meet with President as-Sadat.

I will be happy to answer any question you may have.

One of the journalists asked President as-Sadat the following question: Mr President, can we address a question to Your Excellency?

The president: I have nothing to say today. Today you can address your questions to Secretary of State Vance.

Question: Mr Secretary, have you made some progress on the two main points pertaining to the remaining obstacles and have you persuaded the Egyptians to accept the U.S. compromise regarding setting December 1979 as the specific date for settlement on the West Bank?

Vance: Let me say that I think that we have made some progress with regard to the two main remaining points. However, we have not yet reached final discussions on these subjects. As I have said, we shall hold another meeting tomorrow for further discussions, but we have, in fact, held discussions. [sentence as received]

In reply to a question, Vance said: 17 December is an important date, and I hope we can make further progress. After I leave Egypt, I will be going to Israel for talks with Prime Minister Menahem Begin and his cabinet. I do not think that I can predict anything at this time.

Question: Can you, on the basis of the talks you have held in the past 2 days, tell us how long you will stay here in the area?

Vance: No, I cannot.

Question: Do you think it is possible to arrive at a final draft agreement during your stay in the area, irrespective of the date of your departure, whether before or after 17 December?

Vance: I don't know. All I can say is that I think I can only work with the sides in an attempt to overcome the existing obstacles. As I have pointed out before, if there is a need, after I go to Israel, for me to undertake a shuttle diplomacy for some time, I am ready to do that.

In reply to a question Vance said: I do not want to elaborate on the negotiations. We were studying the possibility of exchanging explanatory notes or letters regarding some of the issues, but I do not want to go into details.

In reply to another question, Vance said: As I have said, I really don't know that [not further explained] and it is up to the parties concerned to make a decision on whether they can reach agreement. Since I have only held talks with the Egyptian side, I cannot at present predict and I do not think it is right for me to predict. Vance added: We discussed some new ideas.

Question: Could you tell us whether you have asked President as-Sadat to send an envoy to attend the funeral of Mrs Meir in Israel, and if so, who the envoy is?

Vance: This was not the topic of our meeting tonight.

Question: You have talked about obstacles. Do you consider the Israeli policy of settlement in the occupied territories to be an obstacle?

Vance: Yes, because we do not approve of the Israeli settlement policy and we have said so on several occasions.

Question: At this stage in the negotiations, do you expect a compromise from the Israelis or should the compromise come from the Egyptian side?

Vance: I hope that the Israelis will follow a more flexible course in the negotiations.

Question: Do you intend to draw up a final written draft agreement during your shuttle, or do you look at this as an opportunity for the resumption of the negotiations between the two sides?

Vance: I think we will do our best and then see if we can finalize the matter before 17 December, which is the date fixed by the parties. I do not think this will happen but we will definitely do our best.

Leaves For Israel

NC111915Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 11 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 11 December--U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance left Cairo this evening for Israel at the end of a 1-day visit to Egypt.

He was seen off at the airport by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Hermann Eilts.

MUSA SABRI VIEWS CHANCES OF PEACE, SOVIET STAND

LD111549Y Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 6 Dec 78 pp 1, 3 LD

[By Musa Sabri]

[Excerpts] The question now being asked in all the world press is: Will the peace talks among Egypt, Israel and the United States stop and might the world's hopes for peace founder?

The answer to this question must be based on the facts of the present situation which, in my opinion, are as follows:

The first fact is that all previous attempts by the Israeli Government to kill the peace initiative have failed. Begin admitted this fact to the Israeli Knesset when the question of settlements was discussed. He said that Israel cannot remain in total isolation from the world, as it would if it rejects the Camp David agreements. Israel's attempts to kill the peace initiative were also evident at the Cairo conference, at the Ismailia conference, at the Jerusalem talks and later the Leeds talks and finally at the Camp David talks. Only on the last day of the 13-day talks was it possible to break the Israeli deadlock.

As we have always described the Camp David agreement as a sound beginning of the correct road to lasting and just peace, the whole world, with the exception of the rejectionist rulers for reasons of their own, adhered to and defended the agreement and refused to allow peace to collapse. The Israeli Government, however strong Zionist propaganda may be, cannot take the responsibility of aborting peace in the eyes of the world and its own people.

The second fact is that the Israeli Government, in hampering peace, relies on scaring the Israeli people who want peace by raising the question of the threat to Israeli security should the situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip develop into Palestinian rule at the end of the 5-year transitional period. Desiring to exploit the Baghdad rejection conference, the Israeli Government sought to step up Israeli statements on the impossibility of giving up Jerusalem and the settlements on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. It even announced the expansion of such settlements and the refusal of the timetable for self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza. This is in addition to the many other statements by Israeli leaders that we have read and been reading daily.

I believe that the policy of scaring the Israel people will be of no avail because the peace movement in Israel has become a reality, regardless of the voices of extremists among Begin's supporters who accuse him of making excessive concessions. Moreover, the facts about Egyptian flexibility are being concealed from the Israeli people. In fact, Mr Begin conceals many facts from the Israeli Cabinet, something which has been confirmed by a leading Israeli writer who calls for the total abandonment of occupied territories for the sake of peace.

The third fact is that the Soviet Union, which leads the conspiracy against the peace agreements, will not be able to withstand the peace momentum. The Soviet Union is actually implementing a clear strategic policy aimed at encircling Egypt and threatening the oilfields in Saudi Arabia. The Soviet Union knows well that the internal front in Egypt fully supports the peace agreement and therefore will not be influenced by the Soviet conspiracy. It also knows that in its stand Egypt enjoys the support of a great section of the communist camp represented by China, Romania, and Yugoslavia. This is in addition to the world's total support for the Egyptian stand. As for threatening the oil sources in Saudi Arabia, I do not think that the Soviet Union can achieve this aim because it knows well that this would mean a world war as this matter concerns the very life of the American people and represents the most important U.S. national interests.

Therefore, the Soviet Union is fighting a verbal battle and waging an information campaign through its radios and newspapers. It cannot do more than this. At the same time the Soviet Union is flirting with Israel and has invited a number of Israeli deputies to visit Moscow. An Israeli delegation member stated after these talks that the Soviet Union supports the road to peace. Moreover, Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union to Israel is continuing very well indeed. The Soviet Union's statement on the Camp David agreements which Gromyko delivered at the United Nations was meek and calm to the point that it caused surprise because it was inconsistent with the cold war that Moscow has been waging against Camp David.

Fact four is related to the previous fact, namely that the Soviet Union did not involve itself in supplying arms to Syria or Iraq that could lead to the threat of war. This was evident in the failure of the recent military talks between Damascus and Moscow. The pro-Syrian papers said that the Soviet Union has raised arms prices in comparison with previous deals and asked Syria to pay in dollars on the grounds that it has obtained aid from the oil countries. The Soviet Union also refused to supply new types of weapons. The official Syrian Ba'thist papers began attacking the Soviet Union, saying that support cannot involve only words and statements. Words of praise for the Soviet Union and the claim that it is the first and only friend have disappeared from Syrian statements. Even the so-called people's conference held recently in Damascus referred only in one sentence in its final statement to the Soviet Union as a supporter of Arab rights.

Sources close to the Syrian Ba'th Party said that the Soviet Union demanded the conclusion of a friendship treaty with Damascus in return for support.

The question: Why is the Soviet Union selling huge and unlimited quantities of arms to Al-Qadhdhafi whereas it places restrictions on Syria? The answer is simple: The Soviet Union wants the Middle East problem to remain outstanding and unsolved so that the rejection countries will have an excuse to turn to it. At the same time it does not want to be responsible for starting a war in the area, especially since it knows that Syria stands alone and that Syria and Iraq together cannot wage such a war.

The Soviet Union is generous with Al-Qadhdhafi first because it is paid in hard currency and, second, because it wants to satisfy Al-Qadhdhafi's dream that he will be able to invade Egypt. It is also because Soviet arms in Libya serve all Moscow's conspiracies in the Horn of Africa.

Fact five concerns the PLO attitude. All that has been said about reconciliation between the PLO and Iraq or the PLO and King Husayn is no more than a tempest in a teacup which will not have the least practical effect. The Baghdad play with all its brief acts had only one aim--to distort Egypt's stand. It was a small aim that came to an end with the end of the play.

The restrictions the Iraqi Ba'th Party placed on PLO activities have not changed and the differences in attitudes between the PLO and King Husayn will not lead to an agreement. The PLO is demanding the release of political prisoners but this will not happen. It is demanding a legitimate presence in Jordan, which also will not happen. It is also demanding the resumption of fedayeen activities from the Jordanian borders, but this will not happen either.

As for King Husayn's statement that the PLO is the Palestinian people's legitimate representative, this is a very easy thing to say. He is now adopting this slogan--which was imposed on him at the Rabat summit--as a means of avoiding any positive participation in the establishment of peace.

Fact six is that the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza really want peace and support the Camp David agreement as a positive step on the right path. But the Palestinian leaderships in the West Bank and Gaza are afraid of terror and assassination and therefore declare their opposition to the agreement. The Begin government encourages these people in their opposition because Begin does not really want to implement the Camp David agreement on the West Bank and Gaza. [paragraph continues]

But Egypt will not go back on its national stand of insisting on a comprehensive and just peace and insists on all the steps stipulated in the Camp David agreements.

No one can imagine that the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza will refuse an end to Israeli military rule, Israeli military withdrawal to specified positions or self-rule. For this reason Begin's government refuses a timetable for linking the implementation of the Sinai agreement with the agreement on a comprehensive solution.

Fact seven is that the U.S. commitment to give momentum to the peace process and to all the positive steps leading to it is a genuine commitment and not just a temporary participation that could end suddenly.

The Carter administration is bound to this commitment and so is the U.S. Congress. The pro-Zionist congressmen know well that the peace opportunity which Anwar as-Sadat created will not be repeated. The congressional delegations that visited Israel and later Cairo--whose members are influential in U.S. policy-making--unanimously agree that the peace momentum will not stop and will achieve its desired objective. Egypt's clear view that a separate agreement between Egypt and Israel will not achieve a lasting and just peace no one can oppose because it is based on sound and convincing logic and on the reality of the area--that a solution must be found for the Palestinian problem.

These seven facts provide the answer to the question we asked at the beginning of this article. They all indicate that the hopes of peace will not founder on any rock.

There remains the Arab stand supporting the Egyptian struggle.

The peace steps enjoy the support of Sudan, Morocco, the Sultanate of Oman and North Yemen. This support is valuable and influential.

As for Tunisia, whatever its stand appeared to be at the Baghdad summit, today we read official Tunisian statements supporting the Egyptian stand.

Also, I cannot imagine that the Saudi stand and the stand of the gulf states will not eventually concur with the Egyptian stand. These moderate countries realize what is happening in the Arab area and in the Horn of Africa in terms of Soviet plots aimed at spreading chaos, class struggle and bloodbaths in order to achieve political and ideological ambitions. These moderate countries are bound to pursue the correct path on the international political scene--namely to support the peace steps. They are also bound to realize that Egypt is the key to the situation, whether be it peace or war, because in the final analysis only right can prevail.

To sum up, the Egyptian peace initiative is heading toward its maximum objectives. Regardless of the obstacles and difficulties which the Begin government is creating today the true reality will ultimately impose itself. Whether the peace talks were delayed and even if these talks were to be cut off, Begin's government cannot freeze the situation permanently. The forces conspiring against peace can only wage a war of words and propaganda which will eventually retreat before the reality of the situation. Also the attitude of the rulers rejecting the peace agreement is much weaker than the world forces supporting the peace process because, as I said, it can only produce resounding speeches and transient and misleading agreements.

It is obvious to anybody who can see that Hafiz al-Asad will not break his relations with the United States. This week he will receive the U.S. Secretary of State and negotiate with Carter's emissary. He also receives U.S. aid.

The PLO's responsibility makes it incumbent upon it to revise its calculations because it must realize that it is now in real isolation. It must support the stand of the Egyptian negotiator in order to reap the fruits of international support for Palestinian rights, support which Egypt played a major role in creating and developing.

Last but not least, the road to peace will not be blocked. Support for the Arab stand in the peace negotiations is a must if we are to think with clear minds and want to reach peace and achieve Palestinian rights. We regret to say again: The example of the Israeli opposition is being followed; it is opposing Begin's stand in order to toughen it, not destroy it.

Rest assured that Egypt is capable of going it alone.

AS-SADAT CABLES WALDHEIM ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

NC091515Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 9 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpts] President as-Sadat today sent a cable of congratulations to UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim on the 30th anniversary of the human rights declaration.

The following is the text of the cable:

On the 30th anniversary of the glorious day of the issuance of the world declaration on human rights, it gives me pleasure to convey to you and the UN members congratulations on the expansive strides which the international organization has taken to safeguard the rights of man throughout the world.

The Egyptian people, who had the honor of actually participating in drafting this historic document and who have honorably and valiantly defended the right of man to live free from threats to his security, are now participating with the other peoples who believe in right and justice in consolidating the rights of peoples to self-determination. Our people, who have extended their hand for peace, reaffirm their commitment to principles from which they will not deviate. These principles are that we will not accept a separate solution and will not squander the rights of the Palestinian people.

We are confident that the United Nations, which supported our march for peace, will continue this decisive support until the march of just peace reaches the shore of safety, which will provide a safe and dignified life for the peoples of our area and provide prosperity and justice to all mankind.

I send you my sincerest greetings wishing success to you and members of the international family.

FORMATION OF SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY APPROVED

NC112131Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpt] Sayyid Zaki, acting secretary general of the central committee and chairman of the political parties committee, this evening announced at a press conference the decision of the political parties committee approving the formation of the Socialist Labor Party.

REPORTAGE ON OFFICIAL TALKS IN MOSCOW

INA: Talks Begin

JN111708Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Moscow, 11 December--Iraqi-Soviet talks began here this evening headed by Saddam Husayn, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], and Aleksey Kosygin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

The Iraqi side included 'Izzat Ibrahim, member of the RCC and interior minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member; 'Adnan Husayn, RCC member and minister of planning; Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi; and Iraqi Ambassador to the Soviet Union Murtada Sa'id 'Abd al-Baqi.

The following participated in the talks on the Soviet side: Baybakov, chairman of the State Committee for Planning (Gosplan) in the Soviet Council of Ministers; Skachkov, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations in the USSR Council of Ministers; Korniyenko, deputy foreign affairs minister [title as received]; (Krinitskiy) chief of the Middle East Department in the Foreign Affairs Ministry; and Aleksandrovich Barkovskiy, Soviet ambassador to Iraq.

During the discussions, a comprehensive and accurate review was made of relations between Iraq and the Soviet Union and the situation in the Arab area, particularly developments in the area in the wake of the Arab summit conference held in Baghdad and the declaration of the Joint National Action Charter between Iraq and Syria.

Our correspondent in Moscow reports that the talks were pervaded by an atmosphere of deep understanding and affirmation for the strength of the relations of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union.

The talks will resume tomorrow.

Foreign Ministers Meet

JN121054Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 12 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Moscow, 12 December--Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi met here this morning with his Soviet counterpart Andrey Gromyko.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and the ways to strengthen them to benefit the Iraqi and Soviet people. They also discussed the situation in the Arab area.

The two ministers discussed the results of the Baghdad summit conference and condemned the results of the Camp David meeting. They also discussed international issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Iraqi Ambassador to the Soviet Union Murtada Sa'id 'Abd al-Baqi.

The Iraqi foreign minister is a member of the delegation accompanying Saddam Husayn on his current tour of the Soviet Union.

Soviet Media Coverage

For Soviet media coverage of the official visit to the Soviet Union by Saddam Husayn, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council of Iraq, see the "Middle East and North Africa" section of the 12 December Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, and subsequent issues.

IRAQI-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY MEETS IN BAGHDAD

JN112034Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 11 December--The Iraqi-Soviet Friendship Society held a celebration here this evening at Al-Mustansiriyah University on the occasion of the Iraqi-Soviet friendship days, which began on Saturday and will last 2 weeks.

In speeches during the celebration, Dr Najih Muhammad Khalil, chairman of the society, and (Kimayev), minister of technical and vocational education in the Belrussia SSR [title as received], praised the relations of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union. They affirmed that relations between the two countries have deepened and developed in various fields, particularly after the 17 July revolution, in the interests of the two friendly peoples.

NOVOSTI DELEGATION ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD ON VISIT

JN112111Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2058 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 11 December--A delegation of the Soviet NOVOSTI News Agency arrived here (?today) headed by (Drivinko), official in charge of the Middle East section, on a visit of several days to Iraq. During the visit, the delegation will acquaint itself with developments being made in Iraq and will visit several provinces to familiarize itself with the great projects being implemented. The delegation will also meet with a number of officials in the fields of information and other state institutions.

The visit comes in implementation of an agreement concluded between INA and the NOVOSTI News Agency in 1974 [words indistinct].

OIL MINISTER ARRIVES IN ABU DHABI, MAKES STATEMENT

JN111946Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 11 December--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, member of the Revolution Command Council and minister of oil, has expressed optimism regarding the results of the OPEC ministerial meeting to begin in Abu Dhabi on Saturday.

In a statement on arrival here this evening at the head of a delegation to attend to OAPEC and OPEC meetings, he said that we are confident that the OPEC members will rise to their responsibilities before their peoples and the developing countries, and that they will adopt unanimous decisions regarding oil prices, the conspiracy of the drop in the value of the dollar, and the regulation of production.

Minister 'Abd al-Karim said: In the past 2 years OPEC has lost 60 percent of the value of its oil revenues as a result of the insistence of the Western industrial countries, headed by the United States, on not curbing inflation and not addressing the status of the dollar in a realistic manner.

The oil minister denounced the visits that U.S. Secretary of Treasury Michael Blumenthal and other U.S. envoys are making to some OPEC countries with the aim of coercing these countries to disavow their interests and accept aggravating losses in favor of world imperialism's interests and monopolies, as well as of the continuation of U.S. support for the Zionist enemy and the enemies of liberation and progress.

IRAQI-AUSTRIAN OFFICIAL TALKS BEGIN IN VIENNA

JN111830Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Vienna, 11 December--Iraqi-Austrian talks began here this evening. The Iraqi side was headed by Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf and the Austrian side by Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. The Iraqi side included Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hamid 'Alwan; Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd al-Husayn al-Jamali; chairman of the Arab Department in the Foreign Ministry 'Abd al-Malik az-Zi'baq; Ambassador to Austria Sadiq al-Mashshat; and a number of specialists and technicians from the Ministries of Planning, Trade and the Iraqi Fund for Foreign Development.

The Austrian side included Hannes Adnrosch, vice chancellor and finance minister; Pahr Willibald, foreign affairs minister; Josef Staribacher, minister of commerce, trade and industry; (Eins Nosia Omer), minister of state for nationalized industries affairs [title as received]; and a number of specialists and technicians from the Foreign Ministry and Economic Federal Chambers.

PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY LEAVES FOR ALGERIA, LIBYA

JN120826Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 12 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 December--A personal envoy of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr left Baghdad this morning for Algeria and Libya.

The envoy, Na'im Haddad, Revolution Command Council member, stated that he will convey President al-Bakr's wishes for a quick recovery to Algerian President Houari Boumediene. Haddad added that during his visit to Algeria, he will hold talks with Algerian officials on developments in the current Arab political situation, the means to confront the imperialist-Zionist onslaught against our Arab nation, the results of the Arab summit conference in Baghdad, and the Joint National Action Charter between fraternal Syria and Iraq.

Haddad added that during his visit to Libya, he will deliver a message from President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr to his brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the General People's Congress. Haddad said that the message deals with developments in the current Arab situation, and ways to coordinate efforts to confront the imperialist-Zionist enemy and implement the resolutions of the ninth Arab summit conference held in Baghdad.

Haddad is the second envoy President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr has sent this week. The first envoy, Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and minister of public works and housing, paid visits to Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Kuwait and delivered messages from President Al-Bakr to the Saudi and Jordanian kings and to the Amir of Kuwait.

IRAQI PRESIDENT'S ENVOY ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE FOR HUSAYN

JN091001Y Amman JNA in Arabic 0945 GMT 9 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 9 December--Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and Iraqi minister of housing, arrived in Amman this morning on a short visit to Jordan, during which he will convey a message addressed to His Majesty King Husayn from his brother President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr.

In a statement made upon arrival, Ramadan said that this visit follows instructions from President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr to discuss current developments in the Arab arena with His Majesty King Husayn. The talks will be within the framework of the Baghdad summit resolutions and his majesty's active role, to follow up beneficial efforts and to discuss means of developing faternal bilateral relations to serve common goals. Ramadan explained that he will extend greetings to his majesty from his brother President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and his deputy. Ramadan was received at Amman airport by 'Amir Khammash, minister of the Royal Court, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Husayn Receives Ramadan

JN091600Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1550 GMT 9 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 9 December--At Al-Hashimiyah Palace this afternoon, His Majesty King Husayn received Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and minister of housing. The minister conveyed to his majesty a message from President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr related to followup efforts of joint Arab action proceeding from the resolutions of the Arab summit conference in Baghdad.

During the meeting, ways of bolstering Arab steadfastness to counter the developments through which the Arab region is passing were reviewed. A review was also made of ways to promote relations and cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Ramadan Departs

JN091604Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1555 GMT 9 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 9 December--Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and minister of housing, left Amman this afternoon following a brief visit to Jordan, during which he delivered a message from the Iraqi president to His Majesty King Husayn. The Iraqi minister was seen off at Amman airport by Court Minister 'Amir Khammash and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

KING HUSAYN LEAVES AMMAN ON EUROPEAN TOUR

JN110946Y Amman JNA in Arabic 0925 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpts] Amman, 11 December--Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur left Amman for Paris on the first leg of their official visit to France, Italy, the Vatican and the United Kingdom. King Husayn is accompanied by an official delegation comprising Ash-Sharif 'abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Court; His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, chief chamberlain; Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs; 'Ali Ghandur, chairman of the Board of Directors and director general of Alia Airlines; and Dr Hanna 'Awdah, president of the National Planning Council.

Crown Prince Hasan took the constitutional oath before His Majesty King Husayn to serve as regent during his majesty's absence abroad.

Arrives in Paris

LD111432Y Paris Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 11 Dec 78 LD

[Text] King Husayn's plane landed at Orly Airport an hour ago. The Jordanian head of state was greeted by the president of the republic. Husayn of Jordan will have two meetings with Valery Giscard d'Estaing.

French President Hosts Dinner

JN120737Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 Dec 78 JN

[Report on speeches exchanged between His Majesty King Husayn and French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing at a dinner hosted by the French president in honor of King Husayn, at Versailles Palace on 11 December--read by announcer]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has stated that just and lasting peace can be achieved only if it is based on justice, the exercise of the people's fundamental rights and respect for their identity and national rights. His majesty added that to achieve lasting peace, efforts must be exerted on these bases, because peace cannot be just and lasting without them.

His Majesty King Husayn spoke at the dinner held in his honor, and that of Queen Nur and the accompanying delegation, by French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and his wife at Versailles Palace last evening.

His majesty added that the latest developments in the area have demonstrated that only a comprehensive settlement of the conflict would achieve the principles that enjoy the world's respect and that would insure stability in the Middle East. As for partial and separate solutions, they are not an answer we regard with enthusiasm.

His majesty affirmed that Jordan's position on achieving a just and lasting peace in the area is based on the complete withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, and the Palestinian people's exercise of their legitimate national rights, including their right to self-determination. His majesty then spoke about the role that Europe in general and France in particular may assume in the Middle East conflict. His majesty stressed that Europe cannot remain neutral on justice and injustice and on aggression and the right to self-determination. His majesty stressed the close relations between Jordan and France and between France and the Arab world. His majesty said that these relations are characterized by mutual respect and understanding and that France's objective and farsighted policy has succeeded in showing understanding for pan-Arab aspirations and the historic dimensions of the Arab struggle.

President d'Estaing delivered a reply on this occasion. The French president said that the excellent personal relations between the French and Jordanian leaders played a decisive role and led to closer ties between the two friendly countries, within the context of historic and geographic realities. By these relations, the two countries have achieved closer ties in all fields.

The French president said: "Your Majesty, you have held the leadership of the kingdom for more than 25 years. France appreciates the leadership capabilities Your Majesty enjoys as a statesman." The French president added that through Jordan's and France's search for peace, the two countries discovered their deep solidarity. France realizes the obstacles raised by the Middle East conflict to development and progress of the peoples in the area. This conflict also affects the world's balance and peace. Our two countries agree on the necessity to exert all efforts to achieve a settlement. The two countries reaffirm that such a settlement will not be lasting unless it fulfills the legitimate aspirations of all the parties. This means that the settlement must be just and comprehensive. This is the only method of solving the conflict and one that provides a practical concept that will be effective through diplomatic efforts. From the beginning, France has outlined the basic conditions for peace in the Middle East. A large part of the international community is now convinced of these conditions and of the idea that there will be no peace any other way. The French president stressed that no course other than the comprehensive one will solve the conflict.

The dinner was attended by the official delegation accompanying his majesty, French ministers, statesmen and their wives.

French Reportage

For French reportage on the visit of King Husayn of Jordan, see the France section of the 12 December and subsequent issues of the Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

PLO DELEGATION TO ARRIVE SATURDAY TO RESUME DIALOG

JN120806Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Dec 78 p 1 JN

[Text] Amman--A PLO delegation led by PLO Executive Committee member Hamid Abu Sittah will arrive in Amman on Saturday to resume the Jordanian-Palestinian dialog.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TRANSFERRED--Amman, 12 December--It has been decided to transfer the Jordanian ambassador to Iran, Taysir Tuqan, to headquarters as of 1 January 1978. [Text] [Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Dec 78 p 1 JN]

ENVOYS PRESENT CREDENTIALS--At Raghdad Palace at noon today, His Majesty King Husayn received the credentials of Brasilian Ambassador Paulo da Costa Franco, Tunisian Ambassador al-Habib 'Abbas, and Lebanese Ambassador Marcel Musa Nammur. [Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Dec 78 JN]

SOVIET JOURNALISTS DELEGATION--Amman, 11 December--A Soviet j[illegible]alists delegation from the Georgian SSR arrived in Amman today on a week-long visit to Jordan. The delegation is headed by the chief editor of FAJR ASH-SHARQ, the official paper of the Georgian SSR. The press delegation and Jordanian officials will discuss means to further develop cooperation on common issues, particularly in the fields of press and information. [Amman JNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN]

PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON LEBANESE TOPICS

NC111530Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Today, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss dealt with all aspects of the Lebanese crisis and past and present initiatives to extricate Lebanon from the vicious whirlpool into which it has been drawn for the last 4 years.

Concerning the visit to France, Prime Minister al-Huss said that France has given its full support to all efforts to restore Lebanese sovereignty in the south. He added that French officials have affirmed their willingness to support any effort to bring national detente to Lebanon.

As for the Lebanese crisis, Prime Minister al-Huss said that it is related to the powers that exert an influence on the Middle East crisis.

Concerning a change in the government, Prime Minister al-Huss said: We welcome any change in the government. We will be willing [to comply with it] if we are certain that our departure will not lead to a government crisis.

Regarding the defense bill draft, Prime Minister al-Huss said that the settlement attained by the parliamentary committees should be considered a step forward toward the necessary legislation.

Concerning the rebuilding of the army, he said: The army must be rebuilt within the context of a comprehensive and profound program which must also tackle the factors that caused the disintegration of the army previously.

Regarding the parliamentary document, the prime minister said: This document might have helped solve the crisis if the government had implemented it.

Finally, Prime Minister al-Huss said: The Arab followup committee which was set up in accordance with the Bayt ad-Din conference resolutions can help restore a stability which emanates from the interest shown by the Arab countries in Lebanon.

Further Reportage

NC111730Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpt] Today, Prime Minister al-Huss was asked whether the French Government has pledged to make an initiative on the international level in order to stop the Israeli intervention in Lebanon, particularly in the south. The prime minister replied: The French have offered their full support to all efforts we might consider making on the international level to restore full Lebanese sovereignty in the south.

As for the Israeli intervention in the crisis, the only effective way to put an end to it is, in my opinion, by proclaiming our intention to resist and reject this intervention and by resolving to solve our disputes by ourselves. By means of this approach, we will abort any possibility that alien foreign powers will exploit these disputes, as Israel is doing in a manner that jeopardizes Lebanon's vital interests and even its very fate and existence.

INTERIOR MINISTER CONDEMNS ATTACK ON AMBASSADOR

NC081840Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Saudi ambassador to Lebanon Gen 'Ali ash-Sha'ir has escaped from an attack on the helicopter in which he was flying this afternoon. He was returning, together with the Kuwaiti ambassador, 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan, from Zgharta town after meeting with former President Sulayman Franjiyah. Their military helicopter was forced to land in the Nahr al-Kalb area after it had been fired on near Juniyah. Ambassador ash-Sha'ir was hit in the right leg and taken to Sayyidat Lubnan hospital in Juniyah.

His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis and Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss have contacted the hospital and wished the ambassador a speedy recovery. Many other political personalities have also visited the hospital.

Commenting on the incident, Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman made the following statement:

When I was given the news about the attack, I contacted the hospital in Juniyah and spoke to the doctors who had carried out surgery on the ambassador's right leg. The doctors reassured me about his condition which is not a cause for any anxiety. I condemn this incident and it is really regrettable that Ambassador ash-Sha'ir should have been subjected to such an incident especially as he is a close friend of Lebanon and is making great efforts to stabilize security in Lebanon and bring views closer together. We thank God for his safe escape, wish him a speedy recovery and congratulate our friend Ambassador 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan on his safe escape also.

FRENCH AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH BUTRUS, ANSWERS QUESTIONS

NC081258Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Dec 78 NC

[Text] At 1100 today, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus met with the French ambassador to Lebanon, Hubert Argod, who said after the meeting: We have come to meet with Minister Butrus after his return from Paris in order to explain some of the points which were raised during President Ilyas Sarkis' visit to France.

Ambassador Argod was asked: How can the results of the visit be summed up? He replied: I believe that you will get to know the results as time goes by. We can sum them up today in a few words: France is always eager to see Lebanon's unity maintained. I believe that the results will become apparent as time goes by. Replying to a question on the uproar raised about the president's visit to France and whether itsresults were negative, the French ambassador said: No, not at all, the results will appear in the various fields and you will feel that as time goes by.

Ambassador Argod was asked: Will a French envoy be visiting Beirut soon? He replied: Not at present.

He was asked: What is the status of France's arms aid to Lebanon? He said: The discussions on this subject are still going on between the two sides.

Replying to a final question on detente and the reiterated reports about "a roundtable" in Paris, the ambassador said: You know that we wish for national Lebanese detente to be achieved; we are working toward this end.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON INTERNAL SITUATION, AMMAN TALKS

JN081219Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Dec 78 pp 1, 15 JN

[Interview granted to AD-DUSTUR by Dr Amin al-Hafiz, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies--date not given]

[Excerpts] Dr Amin al-Hafiz, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, announced after his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn yesterday that Jordan has expressed readiness to offer fruitful and serious aid and effort to the Lebanese and non-Lebanese sides.

Regarding the request made to Jordan to mediate between the parties in the Lebanese crisis, Dr al-Hafiz said: Jordan has so far not withheld meditation; it is careful that this mediation be conducted in a fertile atmosphere leading to success.

Regarding his delivery of a message from the Lebanese president to His Majesty King Husayn and the latter's reply to it, Dr al-Hafiz said: There were not messages in the real sense of the word as much as the communication of the two sides' impressions.

Expressing his satisfaction with his talks with Jordanian officials, he said: I have sensed the freedom and satisfaction of expressing my standpoint and receiving the viewpoints of the officials. One of the topics we discussed with Jordanian officials was the following question: How will the Arabs conduct their affairs after the Egyptian-Israeli agreement which is about to take place, and after the danger of Israel and Zionism enter the Arab east through the broad door of the agreements and treaties that are being prepared? We should not remain passive waiting for danger to occur, but we should get ready to face it, bearing in mind that Israel's entry into the region and the possibility of its becoming an accepted and recognized state in the region will create an unjust and unequal confrontation.

Regarding his expectations of a more effective role to be played by the French following the recent visit to France by the Lebanese president and a more effective Arab role following the Baghdad summit, Dr al-Hafiz said: Regarding France, it has become clear to us that its stand on aid hinges on agreement among the Lebanese themselves. The visit His Majesty King Husayn intends to pay to France shortly may shed new light on this topic.

Regarding the Israeli role in escalating the Lebanese crisis, Dr al-Hafiz said: This role started with the plan drawn up by international circles to find a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis. The world planners of Zionism proposed that Israel should postpone--at least for the time being--the implementation of its territorial expansionist ambitions in return for entering the region, getting recognized and taking a plentiful share of the petroleum in the area, especially since the petroleum is not expected to last more than 25 or 30 years at the most.

Dr al-Hafiz went on to say: Getting a large share of these benefits comes through practicing the talents the Jews are famous for. Hence, there came the plan of destroying Lebanon and its economic and financial installations through making use of its points of weakness, such as sectarianism and others, so that Lebanon would be robbed of its role in the region when a peaceful solution is accomplished. Israel's role is also obvious due to its direct military presence at times and indirect military presence at others. This in itself constitutes a danger not only to the safety and sovereignty of Lebanon, but also to the region adjacent to Lebanon. Lebanon recently officially admitted this presence when it court martialed some officers.

'REJECTIONISTS' TRY TO KIDNAP NORWEGIAN ENVOY

NC111841Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 11 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpts] Today, the Voice of Lebanon correspondent has revealed a plan drawn up by one of the rejectionist fronts to kidnap the Norwegian ambassador to Lebanon last Thursday night in order to disrupt the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

The attempt to kidnap the Norwegian ambassador came 36 hours before the date set for the peace prize award. The rejectionist front intended to threaten to kill the Norwegian ambassador if As-Sadat and Begin were awarded the prize. However, the plan was aborted because the ambassador was able to escape.

The incident involving the attempt to kidnap the Norwegian ambassador led top-level Lebanese circles to favor the setting up of a special security organ which will assume the task of protecting the members of the diplomatic corps in Lebanon, in view of the fact that more than one ambassador has been subjected to attempts involving murder, looting and attacks.

A number of diplomats have requested the Lebanese Foreign Ministry to provide security men to guard the embassies and the houses of their top-level staff.

However, since the security organs lack the needed manpower, the Lebanese authorities have permitted the embassies to recruit personnel from their respective countries to assume this task.

It is worth noting that a number of Arab and foreign diplomats have received various threats, which has led a number of embassies to reduce their diplomatic staffs.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS 11 DEC SNIPING INCIDENTS

NC111604Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 11 Dec 78 NC

[Text] The security situation continued to fluctuate between sniping and firing along the traditional axes, particularly in the Ash-Shiyah area, the Chevrolet area, Gallerie Sim'an and [word indistinct] street. In these areas, caution is still the order of the day, while the roads remain unsafe.

In the capital's eastern suburb, relative calm prevailed in the wake of the intensive firing to which the area of Ad-Dikwanah was subjected.

In the area of Ad-Dabbas, light and intermittent fire continues.

SECURITY SITUATION ON MORNING OF 12 DECEMBER REPORTED

NC120645Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 12 Dec 78 NC

[Text] The Syrian forces deployed in Sinn al-Fil suddenly and without reason opened fire last night on the citizens, vehicles and buildings. The situation became tense and citizens spent the night in basement shelters.

At 2230 yesterday the Ad-Dikwanah area was subjected to heavy shooting and intermittent artillery shelling. At 0330 today, the Ad-Dikwanah and Sinn al-Fil areas were subjected to heavy artillery shelling and shooting. At 0230 the shelling became intermittent. Seven artillery shells fell on buildings in Ad-Dikwanah, wounding two people, one of them seriously.

The As-Sayfi area is currently being subjected to sporadic shooting.

RIGHTIST MILITIAMEN EXCHANGE FIRE WITH LEBANESE SOLDIERS

JN111356Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1258 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 11 December--Rightist militiamen today attacked elements of the Lebanese Army in the Sarba barracks near Juniyah, east of Beirut. The INA correspondent says that the militiamen, who were passing near Sarba barracks, provoked the soldiers and this led to an exchange of fire which lasted 1 hour.

BEIRUT REPORTS TWO SOLDIERS KILLED

NC111602Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Dec 78 NC

[11 December statement issued by Lebanese Army Information Directorate]

[Excerpt] In Shadrah 'Akkar and Sinn al-Fil the funeral of Cpl Ilyas Hanna and soldier Emil Ilyas Malki was held. The funeral was attended by many citizens of the two areas and the adjoining villages.

Everybody condemned the acts of belligerence to which members of the Lebanese forces are being subjected. These aggressive acts are carried out against individuals as well as groups belonging to the Lebanese forces and against their equipment, by armed men whose primary consideration is the disruption of the march to rebuild the nation and the army.

Earlier, armed men attacked a food truck carrying two soldiers near the Harb barracks. These armed men ordered the soldiers to get down, then executed them and threw their bodies in the middle of the road. These two men have therefore been added to the list of army martyrs.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF NETHERLANDS FOREIGN MINISTER

Dinner Speeches

JN100843Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 9 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpts] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, hosted a banquet this evening in honor of Netherlands Foreign Minister Christoph van der Klaauw and the accompanying delegation. The banquet was attended by a number of cabinet ministers, the assistant foreign minister, the Netherlands ambassador in Damascus and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Mr Khaddam made a speech on the occasion in which he welcomed the guest and the delegation. He said: We will have the chance tomorrow to discuss political topics, bilateral relations and the situation in the region and the world. I would like to affirm to you that Syria, which is an important party to the Middle East dispute, is concerned with peace and committed to it as a fixed target. The attempts to destroy peace through the Camp David agreements and other means will not divert us from continuing the peace march, because we believe that peace is an international necessity as much as it is necessary for our country. Everybody should take part in the peace process. Peace must be based on clear and firm bases, and we consider the UN Charter and resolutions as the best basis for this peace. We demand the Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories as an essential element for peace because the UN Charter, international law and the UN resolutions stipulate this demand.

Mr Khaddam said: We consider that the solution to the problem of the Arab people of Palestine and the guaranteeing of their national legitimate rights in accordance with the UN resolutions are most important elements for peace. Unless this dispersed people are given justice, we cannot conceive of any real and lasting peace for the region. We hope that this visit will help give a clear understanding of the nature of the dispute in this region. Undoubtedly, to understand the nature of this dispute is a positive contribution toward peace. Mr Khaddam wished the delegation a pleasant stay in Syria.

The Netherlands foreign minister made a speech in which he said: It is a great honor for me and the accompanying delegation to be guests in your country. I have the honor of being the first Netherlands foreign minister to visit your country.

The Netherlands minister said: I will be pleased to hear the Syrian point of view on the Middle East problem. I have come here with an open mind to listen to the Syrian and Arab viewpoints. Regardless of our differences on certain issues, we believe in peace. When we talk about war and peace, we are sure that the Arab people love and desire peace.

Official Talks

JN101249Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Official talks between the Syrian side under Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and the Netherlands side under Dr Christoph van der Klaauw, Netherlands foreign minister, began in the Foreign Ministry today. Mr Khaddam explained to the delegation the Middle East situation, Syria's stand on the Camp David agreements and the threats to peace posed by As-Sadat's policy of capitualation. The talks also dealt with bilateral relations.

Mr Khaddam expressed his satisfaction with the development of relations between the two countries and said that the foreign minister's visit will greatly strengthen relations between the two countries.

Dr van der Klaauw spoke on the stands of the European states, especially the stand of the nine countries of the EEC. He also spoke about the recent meeting held by the EEC states in the Belgian capital and the stands of these states on the Middle East problem, including the Palestinian problem. The minister expressed the hope that the relations between the two countries will be promoted in various fields.

Meeting With Al-Asad

JN111937Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1815 today Mr Christoph van der Klaauw, foreign minister of the Netherlands, and Mr (van Del), head of the Africa and Middle East Department in the Dutch Foreign Ministry. The meeting was attended by Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Van Ede van der Pals, Dutch ambassador in Damascus.

The talks centered on bilateral relations and the Middle East. The president made clear Syria's viewpoints on recent developments and stressed the importance of Arab-European cooperation to achieve just peace in the region.

Visit Ends

JN112124Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Dr Christoph van der Klaauw, Netherlands foreign minister, left Damascus for home today after a 3-day visit to Syria, during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad. He held talks with a number of Syrian officials. Mr Klaauw was seen off at Damascus airport by Mr Nasir Qaddur, assistant foreign minister; Mr Muaffaq al-Qudsi, chief of protocol in the ministry; a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials and the Netherlands ambassador in Damascus.

In a statement, Mr Klaauw said that President Hafiz al-Asad is a great statesman and that he explains his views with clarity and with care. He said: I was touched by what I heard from him, and I am very happy to have met him.

AL-ASAD CABLES WALDHEIM ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

JN100856Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1010 GMT 10 Dec 78 JN

[Text of cable send by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim on the 30th anniversary on the Declaration of Human Rights]

[Excerpts] Your Excellency Dr Kurt Waldheim, secretary general of the United Nations Organization, New York:

On the occasion of the United Nations' and the world's celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, it gives me pleasure to express our appreciation in Syria for UN efforts over the past 30 years to entrench the contents of the Declaration of Human Rights and stress its application in defense of human rights.

We know that you have made a personal effort to secure human rights and I would like to say that human rights are also the subject of Syria's care and concern. These rights are deeply rooted in our heritage and religious values. They are practically epitomized in our constitution, which was supported by the people in a general referendum in 1973.

It is painful that the rights of human beings in certain parts of the world continue to be violated and denied as is happening in the racist and fascist regimes in Israel, South Africa, Rhodesia, Namibia and other countries. What can be more unjust than a whole people's being denied their rights, especially their right to self-determination. Several peoples suffer this denial, particularly the Palestinian people and the peoples of South Africa.

As we are aware, people cannot bow down to injustice. Hence, the explosive and grave situation in various parts of the world will continue to prevail until people regain their rights and liberties.

In conclusion, I wish you and the United Nations success in all your efforts.

[Signed] Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

KHADDAM RETURNS TO DAMASCUS FROM RIYADH, HOSTS BANQUET

JN1121307 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Damascus from Riyadh this afternoon after a short visit to Saudi Arabia, during which he met with His Majesty King Khalid and delivered to him a letter from President al-Asad.

This evening Mr Khaddam hosted a banquet in Ash-Sharq Club in honor of the delegations taking part in the meetings of the general committee of the Arab-European dialog being held in Damascus.

The banquet was attended by a number of cabinet ministers, chiefs of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM VIEWS AS-SADAT, CAMP DAVID

JN1109517 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Interview with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by the information delegation accompanying Netherlands Foreign Minister Dr van der Klaauw, in Damascus on 10 December--read by announcer]

[Text] Question: What is your evaluation of the talks you and Dr van der Klaauw have held?

Answer: We talked in a frank and cordial atmosphere. We reviewed in detail the situation in the region and the situation in Europe.

Question: What are your views on the Camp David agreements?

Answer: We consider these two agreements big obstacles on the road to peace in the Middle East because of the following reasons:

First, the dispute in the area is between the Arab states on the one hand and Israel on the other. Therefore, the withdrawal of an Arab state and the signing of a reconciliation [sulh] agreement with Israel does not end the dispute but causes a new element of tension. Any attempt at solving this dispute without the participation of the other Arab states is based on illusion.

Second, these agreements are contrary to the UN resolutions. Take for example UN Resolution 338, which stipulates in its third paragraph the convening of a peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all the parties concerned, under the chairmanship of the two superpowers; and then take Camp David on the other hand. What do we find? The United States, Egypt and Israel. Where is the United Nations? Where are the UN auspices? Where are Syria, Jordan, the PLO and the Soviet Union? Therefore, Camp David is contrary to the UN resolutions and hampers these resolutions. If we look at the problem from another angle, As-Sadat signed and negotiated in the name of the Palestinians and other Arab states. Has he been authorized by anybody? Has he an authorization document?

Third, the Middle East dispute has many factors. The first factor is the Palestinian cause. The second factor is the occupied Arab territories. If we go back to the Camp David agreements, we find that there is a liquidation of the Palestinian cause and a disavowal of the Palestinian Arab people's national rights which are to be exercised in accordance with UN resolutions. Can anyone imagine the possibility of establishing peace without the Palestinian Arab people; establishing a peace based on the liquidation of this people's cause?

What is being said about autonomy is that it constitutes the liquidation of the Palestinian cause. The Palestinian cause is not one of self-rule or autonomy but one of a dispersed people who wish to return to their homeland, to exercise their right to self-determination in this homeland and to build their independent state. As we know, the autonomy is a legalization of the Israeli occupation because it means a state will not operate except under Israeli sovereignty. Where are the rights of the Palestinians who were dispersed from their homes and are living in hard economic, social and political circumstances?

Khaddam added that he can affirm that the Palestinian cause is the fundamental factor in the dispute. The Camp David agreements aim at liquidating the Palestinian cause. This does not constitute a factor of stability or peace in the area.

The second factor in the dispute is the withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. It is clear that Israel, despite all the concessions offered by As-Sadat, has not committed itself to withdrawal. It has restricted Egyptian sovereignty over Sinai.

For all these reasons, we consider the Camp David agreements as a new obstacle on the road to peace. Whoever imagines that As-Sadat is capable of achieving peace without the Arabs is living an illusion. The Arab nation has rejected this course. The resolutions of the Arab summit conference in Baghdad truly express the reality of the Arab position.

Question: Do you consider As-Sadat a traitor to the Arab cause?

Answer: How do you describe any person who acts in this manner? The cause of As-Sadat is similar to that of Petain. Why did the Europeans view Petain as a traitor? The same cause, the same factors, the same reasons. As-Sadat has fallen into a quagmire. No one will be able to save him.

Question: What do you think about the latest rapproachement between the Maronites and the PLO?

Answer: To my knowledge, there are no differences between the Maronites and the PLO. The differences are between the Phalangist and Sham'unist parties on one hand and the other Maronites, other Lebanese citizens and Palestinians and Arabs on the other hand. For example, President Sulayman Franjiyah is a former president of Lebanon and a former leader of the Lebanese Front. He is in disagreement with Camille Sham'un and with Pierre al-Jumayyil.

Khaddam added that 2 days ago the militias shot at the Saudi and Kuwaiti ambassadors. The Saudi ambassador was wounded. When the Lebanese Army attempted to arrest one of those who fired, the militias arrested 200 Lebanese officers. Does this event show that these elements are with the state, the law, legitimacy and Lebanon's unity?

Question: Are the Phalangists and the Sham'unists considered the only obstacle to the implementation of the Bayt ad-Din resolutions?

Answer: Yes, they are an obstacle. However, there is another obstacle. The Lebanese State must begin to adopt practical steps to implement the Bayt ad-Din resolutions, because those who bear arms in the face of the state will not observe the law by good words, by a statement broadcast on radio, or by wishful thinking and prayers.

Question: What do you think of the Netherlands' Middle East policy?

Answer: We are satisfied with the development of the Netherlands' Middle East policy. At a previous stage, Netherlands' policy was based on a biased position toward Israel without even thinking of discussing the Arab viewpoint. But now it is different. The Netherlands Government looks for and discusses facts. It tries to become acquainted with the situation as it is. Undoubtedly this development is a positive thing.

Question: What is your reaction to reports that Israel is getting involved in southern Lebanon?

Answer: The Israeli involvement in southern Lebanon is evident. It is part of the acts which aim at achieving Israeli expansion in the region and keeping the state of tension in Lebanon. Undoubtedly, Israel is playing an important role in pushing the armed groups to continue violating legitimacy and prevent peace and stability from being established in Lebanon.

Question: How do you view As-Sadat's future and the Egyptian internal situation?

Answer: It is obvious that the internal situation in Egypt will not continue as it is now. The Arab people in Egypt believe in their cause and their dignity. The Egyptian people have a rich history of struggle against occupation. In our opinion, As-Sadat is on one side and the Egyptian people on the other. What has As-Sadat succeeded in offering the Egyptian people? Has he succeeded in offering them bread? If we compare the present living conditions with the ones prevailing during 'Abd an-Nasir's regime, we realize that the state of despair has doubled during As-Sadat's regime. Has As-Sadat succeeded in solving problems of education, communications, taking into consideration that all these factors constitute elements of a stable situation. As-Sadat has not succeeded in solving the main problem of the Egyptian people's national dignity and national interests. The Egyptian president has isolated the Egyptian people from the Arabs. This, in turn, represents a basic factor in future developments in Egypt.

Khaddam added that he was present in Egypt on 18 and 19 January 1977 when demonstrations took place throughout Egypt, when demonstrators attacked President as-Sadat's house three times and when tanks were placed around his house to protect it. All of us recall that millions of Egyptians took to the streets demonstrating against As-Sadat and his regime, which is bleeding the Egyptian people, increasing their poverty, illness and famine. Khaddam wondered about the new things As-Sadat has offered to his people to remove their grievances. As-Sadat has practiced new methods of oppression. However we all know the fate of those rulers who isolate their peoples, oppress them and establish corrupt regimes which starve and oppress their people.

Question: You have clarified to us your opposition to the Camp David agreements. The United States is urging that the agreement be signed before 17 December. What strategy will Syria adopt after 17 December?

Answer: It seems that the United States is in a haste to bring down As-Sadat and to find his replacement within the framework of U.S. policy. As for Syria, we have a constant objective. We can distinguish between peace based on justice and rights and the state of capitulation based on oppression and injustice. Khaddam stressed that As-Sadat's exclusion will not lead to the imposition of capitulation on the Arabs. The Baghdad conference gives the true picture of the Arab situation. The capabilities available to the Arabs are many. The capabilities available between Syria and Iraq are also many. All these capabilities enable us to always adopt positions serving our countries and just peace.

PAPERS CRITICIZE NOBEL PRIZE, ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN TALKS

JN1110951Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "The Dayr Yasin Butcher and the Nobel Prize," TISHRIN says that Begin received half of the Nobel Peace Prize. Begin shed crocodile tears during the ceremony because he has been classified with those who were given this prize for their efforts and services to mankind and world peace. As-Sadat did not attend to take his share but was satisfied with sending Sayyid Mar'i [Egyptian presidential assistant] to represent him in the ceremony and to say that when As-Sadat carried out his capitulatory initiative, he did so for the future generations; that is, to bequeath to future generations the results of his capitulatory policy.

The strange thing is that the Nobel Prize has been given to Begin and As-Sadat under the pretext that they have put an end to a war that lasted for three decades, and that As-Sadat's actions will result in the establishment of peace in the area. There is a paradox here. Although the operation for a separate peace agreement between Israel and the As-Sadat regime is currently being hampered by various elements--most important of which is the Arab rejection of the Camp David agreements, which contradict UN resolutions and resolutions of the various Arab summit conferences, the principle of the right to self-determination and the nonacquisition of land by force--the Nobel Prize Committee ignores these basic facts. It even ignores Begin's terrorist record. It was Begin who organized the Dayr Yasin massacres, demolished scores of Arab villages, killed hundreds of Arab children, women and old men in order to implement the Zionist aim of clearing Arab Palestine of its Arab people, so that the dispersed Jews, who dream of establishing the state of greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates, may establish their state there. TISHRIN adds that the delivery of the Nobel Peace Prize to Begin is an act exonerating Begin of all the crimes he committed during the past stage. The Egyptian president participated in this exoneration when he visited Israel and when he placed a wreath on the monument of the Israeli unknown soldier. It goes without saying that the Nobel Prize Committee does not shoulder alone the responsibility for this exoneration. The large part of this responsibility must be shouldered by As-Sadat.

It is a pity that the Nobel Peace Prize should be given to the enemies of peace, to killers, after it lost the sublime objective for which it used to be given.

In another editorial under the headline "Washington Fighting Against Time," TISHRIN says that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance began his new tour of the Middle East by visiting Egypt and meeting with As-Sadat. He will leave from there to Israel to meet with Begin. News agencies report that Vance's mission is to bring the capitulatory negotiations between Israel and the As-Sadat regime out of the impasse they are facing. In fact, the halt in the negotiations between the As-Sadat regime and Israel is not the first in the history of the negotiations, which have been underway for more than 1 year. The negotiations have stopped more than once for tactical reasons and in exposed attempts to delude Egyptian and Arab public opinion and make believe that As-Sadat will give up the capitulatory course and return to Arab ranks. The paper explains that these pauses during the current negotiations between Israel and the Egyptian regime--and in which the president of the Egyptian regime appears to be intending to return to Arab ranks after having left these ranks--are just exposed maneuvers. The paper also points to the warnings issued by Carter. It adds that during these pauses in the negotiations, the U.S. anxiety was not great and its determination to act was not as quick as it is at present. President Carter expressed the U.S. anxiety when he stated that "if the Egyptians and Israelis do not sign the peace treaty within the determined period of 3 months, this will be a very dangerous matter to us, and to them, I believe. This is the reason I am sending Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to Egypt and probably to Israel afterwards."

TISHRIN then outlines the reasons behind the U.S. haste to end the capitulatory negotiations between Israel and Egypt. The paper adds that the Americans are in haste because matters in the Arab and international arenas are no longer suitable to their schemes. No one can guarantee the survival of the As-Sadat regime or the continuation of the circumstances that encouraged producing the Camp David agreements, which are contradictory to UN resolutions and peace interests. There appeared on the international arena signs of moves by the international community to speed the peace process on a sound path by means of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations and the expected discussions of the UN Security Council. On the Arab level, Syria's steadfastness in the face of the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy led to the creation of the Pan-Arab Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation. The vanguard pan-Arab policy under President Hafiz al-Asad led to rapprochement between Syria and Iraq, with all that this represents of equations reversed in the area and a rectification of the imbalance of powers that took place owing to the exclusion of Egypt from the Arab confrontation line. The Arab summit conference in Baghdad also led to the emergence of Arab unanimity in rejecting the Camp David agreements and their results and in condemning As-Sadat's capitulatory policy.

The United States, which envisioned As-Sadat's capitulation along with all the other developments the area has witnessed since 1973, has provided itself with the opportunity to spread its control over the area. It finds itself facing new situations that worry it and that form a stumbling block to its schemes and plans. Therefore, the United States' haste to have As-Sadat sign the peace treaty is a device to cut short all the developments that may take place and that may threaten U.S. schemes in the area.

DAMASCUS CRITICIZES CYRUS VANCE'S CURRENT TOUR

JN111500Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Cyrus Vance, the U.S. secretary of state, has started a new official mission to Cairo and Tel Aviv. This mission, as it has been described, aims to move the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations out of the recent deadlocks. The current mission of the U.S. envoy, although it is widely covered by information media, doesn't differ in form and substance from previous U.S. missions, which all aimed to restore imperialist domination in the area as well as to further consolidate the Zionist occupation of the Arab territories. All those missions also have tried to manipulate and restrict sincere international efforts to establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Anyone who tries to review the method that was employed by the United States, Israel and the ruler of Egypt from the very beginning of the negotiations should simply realize the nature and limits of the conspiracy. Washington is coordinating with Cairo and Tel Aviv to gain more time and to nulify Arab and international opinion. Therefore, Washington is creating a chain of false differences between the ruler of Egypt and Menahem Begin to make the Arabs believe in the "good intentions" of As-Sadat and his "determination" to restore and secure all Arab rights and, furthermore, to convince the whole world that he is negotiating with the Zionists on behalf of the Arabs and the Palestinians.

However, we are confident that the current mission of Cyrus Vance will fail and face the same end as the many previous U.S. missions and shuttle tours, which have all failed to impose the goals of imperialism and Zionism. Vance's tour is only a continuation of the international plot prepared in Washington, Cairo and Tel Aviv. Vance's tour will fail because the Camp David agreements do not form a good basis for peace and stability in the area; moreover, this tour will collapse because the ruler of Egypt has not been authorized by the Arabs to negotiate with the Zionists. Finally, it has become crystal clear that unilateral agreements do not solve serious problems or put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

International opinion, represented by the United Nations, has frequently expressed the world's desire to establish stability and lasting peace in the Middle East. The world's people have stressed that such peace should mainly depend on the implementation of the appropriate UN resolutions.

At the end of last week, the UN General Assembly voted in an absolute majority for a new resolution providing that peace cannot be divided and that a just and lasting settlement in the Middle East should be based on a comprehensive solution under the auspices of the United Nations and the twosuperpowers. Hence, the world community has once again slammed the door on the unilateral settlement of Camp David. The world community has reiterated that a framework for peace and stability in the Middle East can only be achieved through the prompt implementation of the UN resolutions.

If As-Sadat and his overlords in Washington and Tel Aviv are still confident that they are capable of imposing capitulation on the Arabs through the Camp David agreements and the subsequent accords, then they will reap nothing but failure. They should realize that peace could not be achieved apart from the Arabs. The Arab will is the only side that can make decisions regarding all issues that might joepardize our national interest.

ALGERIA

ALGIERS REPORTS BOUMEDIENE CONDITION UNCHANGED

LD112036Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 11 Dec 78 LD

[Text] It was learned from medical sources this evening that the condition of President Houari Boumediene, president of the republic and the Council of the Revolution, is unchanged and treatment is continuing normally.

LIBYA

SYRIA'S KHADDAM HOLDS TALKS IN TRIPOLI, LEAVES FOR ALGERIA

JN071939Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 7 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Tripoli--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress. Issues of common interest were discussed at the meeting.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has left Tripoli for Algeria. In a statement prior to his departure from Tripoli airport, Mr Khaddam said: It is natural for consultations to be held between us and the Libyan brothers on all matters of mutual concern to us all. Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud and I reviewed the current Arab situation and developments in the Arab area. We assessed the situation. Our viewpoints were in agreement on all issues discussed.

AL-QADHDHAFI ADDRESSES LIBYAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

LD100220Y Tripoli JANA in English 1410 GMT 9 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Dec 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The leader of the great 1st September revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, has said during a meeting with the Jamahiriyah's Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry:

"My meeting with you is for the purpose of listening to the viewpoint you have presented, and I am in agreement with what you have said. For you make a living from our commercial activities regardless of their revolutionary and social nature of the [word indistinct] and new aspects or changes which occur universally affecting human life...for what might be correct in a certain era in history could hold false in another era. And what might be permitted (by God) in a certain period could become sacrilegious in another period or for another nation. Thus is man's march forward, and his discovery of new paths which concern him."

The revolution's leader added: "Members of the commercial and contracting sector depend on their commercial activities for their living and for supporting their families. They are sons of this nation. And no one can deny that many of them were strugglers, they are some who are certainly not sons of this nation,, those who are mercenaries whom we had accepted because they had simply existed. The proof is their flight from this country after their personal, selfish gains had diminished. Their countries have become Italy, Britain and the occupied land, planning that their homeland, religion, nationality and honor is money." [sentence as received]

The revolution's leader affirmed: "Commerce is an exploitative phenomenon, and the commercial sector is a consuming, non-producing sector." He added: "I do not mean the Libyan traders, but I am referring to commerce wherever it exists in the world. For the merchant's basic aim, wherever he is, is to consume without producing."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi went on to say: "Merchants will come to accept that free commerce will come to an end because it is an exploitative phenomenon. During my elaboration on the Green Book, to university students, revolutionary committees and political education camps, I explained the nature of commerce, and everyone was convinced that commerce was an exploitative phenomenon."

He added: "Any people who allows free enterprise is ignorant. The consumer who succumbs to the merchant's control over his needs is also ignorant." He said: "The masses have awoken to this fact and have started to correct this situation by ridding themselves from the yoke of exploitation."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi affirmed: "The eradication of exploitation is a historical choice for the revolution. The whole world is being swept by a progressive revolution against all aspects of exploitation."

He added: "Despite the shah of Iran's authority and might, his pictures are being trampled on in the streets..the people have awoken and will not submit except to their own free will, and any attempt made against historical and revolutionary circles, and fundamental transformations, are desparate attempts doomed to failure."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said: "The great 1st September revolution has been developed in the Jamahiriyah through stages, so change has occurred peacefully." He added: "Present transformations in the Jamahiriyah are taking place in an atmosphere of tranquility, peace and contentment."

Referring to the producers' revolution and the workers marches which accompanied it, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said that he had urged the workers to rise in revolution, by explaining to them the exploitative relationship existing between the worker and the employer, illustrating it with figures. The workers were convinced after they found that they were exchanging their production which takes 10 hours of their day in return for wages which were much less than what they should be rightly paid, and which certainly gets added to the employers' profits.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said that he could convince the merchant and the contractor that the enslavement of workers, activity on other peoples' shoulders, and the hiring of hands is not permitted (by God). "This persuation could be accomplished easily and without compulsion."

He cited an example of this, from the pre-Islamic Arab society where the burying of newborn girls alive, alcoholism and idolatry were permissible, along with other sinful acts which Islam had rightfully forbidden through persuation.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi affirmed; "the process of buying and selling simply means the transfer of money of the toiler in the factory or the farm, to the merchant or contractor sitting on his chair without producing. This process is still going on because it embodies the nature of the relationship existing between the worker and the consumer on one hand, and the contractor and merchant on the other."

"So long as commerce and contracts are permissible," he further said, "the new directions of the revolution are irreversible and the guarantor of their victory and continuity as the revolutionary forces across the country, as well as those outside the Jamahiriyah where these directions are widely met with positive responses from the world's revolutionary forces which are determined to attain their aspirations through popular revolution."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi added: "These directions are based on faith in man's freedom as a general cause, for the great 1st of September revolution is a radical, civilizational and rational revolution which has high goals to attain. The directions it has taken were neither based on a grudge against any specific faction nor on a concern for the individual interests of anybody."

He went on to say: "We are about to embark on an onslaught against all aspects of exploitation and their destruction so that we can build the new society which is free from exploitation and political and social diseases, and which will be of benefit to all."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi indicated that "the masses march towards the attainment of this dream is based on their desire for a happy, free life, in a society free from explitation and slavery."

He added: "Time might transform the rich into poor, so that what applies to the latter now would apply to the former. This means that the issue does basically consist in the victory of freedom, that is the liberation of your needs, power and will... for freedom is a general cause and anybody who stands against the new directions stands against freedom and works for the entrenchment of slavery. This means that if we stand by the revolution, it will attain victory and realize prosperity for all, while the reverse would occur if we stood against the revolution, for we would, in that case, contribute to bringing harm to ourselves and to the future generations."

"We are struggling now not for the slaves to attain victory and dominate their masters, but rather for all to remain masters. We are struggling for bringing the downfall of exploitation in all its forms and for negating the deployment of exploitation against any one of us."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said: "Should any one of us align himself with exploitation, there might come a day when that person will become a victim of exploitation. He will therefore lose and become a victim of the very thing he had supported."

He said: "The high principles posed by the revolution have made the sons of merchants and contractors, students, intellectuals and everyone who has understood these problems, join the revolution and revolutionary committees... as a result of this, a contradiction between children and their parents has come about, since the parents had lived under the shadow of exploitation, and had sanctified their personal interests forgetting the causes of right, justice and equality."

He said: "Free commerce is an exploitative phenomenon which should be eradicated, and people working in that field should be transformed into production... in order to participate in building the new society and eradicate backwardness which necessitates the mobilisation of all capabilities." He added: "The revolution, being radical, civilizational and rational, does not recognise hesitation and gives to everything and everyone what they deserve. There is, therefore, no way in which the revolution could be blamed for these transformations, especially when in the last few years the revolution had allowed contractors and merchants to work in the great projects realised by the revolution."

"These people should appreciate the 10 years opportunity which the revolution had granted in order that they would not join the camp opposing it, not withstanding the fact that no one has tried to rob them of what they had gained.

All what will happen, will be the transformation of these merchants and contractors into productive forces participating in the creation of wealth."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said: "Contractors have realised large profits after the revolution as a result of massive projects, since the country had earlier been devoid of developmental activities in all fields. The 10-year period given by the revolution to merchants, contractors and others, for making gains, was also sufficient for the maturation of ideas which led to the appearance of the Green Book and its theses. There could be no truce after this period."

He added that the new advances did not achieve any personal interests either for him or for those who had joined him in bringing about the revolution. The advances, he said, were for the benefit of the entire Libyan-Arab people.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi affirmed the necessity of abolishing free commerce, wages and rents "which are all exploitative phenomena that are bound to vanish so that no person will be a parasite on another. This way, justice, equality, security, freedom and happiness will be achieved."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi referred to the people's congresses' resolution concerning the increase in the production capacity by saying: "This means that everyone working in the consumption sector should change to the productive one in a bid to eradicate backwardness by mobilising all capabilities and potentialities to build the new socialist society."

In relation to this point, he said that large consuming sectors were being transformed into productive ones.

On the dictum "the house belongs to its tenant" Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said: "The renting tenant lives a turbulent life for many reasons; one of them being the constant threat of eviction at any time, another being rent increases with or without justification. Therefore it is essential that a house inhabited by an occupant and his family should be his personal property. This also applies to vehicles of transportation which should be under the private property of individuals and not means of exploiting others."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi then referred to the consumers cooperative societies, by saying "these societies, in their present conditions, are capitalist societies and are not the societies which are required. They will vanish just like free commerce if they do not change their nature."

He pointed out that cooperative societies and public markets, correctly understood, are not based on profit, but on offering services to the people and selling consumer goods to them at cost price.

He said: "The Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry can play a role by guiding the commercial sector and pushing it towards production, and transforming it from a consuming to a productive sector."

He said: "Anyone who had money could change his activities and carry out, with other members of the public, productive socialist work, because ownership in the new socialist society differed from any other existing ownership in the world."

He added: "The new socialist ownership is a great task which one individual or a small group could not solely carry out.

This could only be achieved by every individual carrying out productive work such as in big factories. These factories are socialist establishments where people who produced in them are not hired hands but have a share in production and where the remaining production goes to the people who own the factory, capital, and raw materials.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said: "There is another sacred form of ownership, which is productive. It is sacred because its owner works for himself in order to satisfy himself and live from his work. This form of work is permitted (by God)."

He added: "Productive work is that which multiplies the value of the commodity produced, and not work which multiplies its price, something which only benefits the merchant who raises the commodity's price and therefore benefits society in no way." Colonel al-Qadhdhafi gave a few examples of productive work such as plumbing, painting, clock-repairing, radio maintenance, car maintenance, and other forms of maintenance which maintained or elongated any instrument's life, or multiplied its productivity.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi urged the Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry to participate fully in the revolution, because it was not the sole property of any group but basically depended on personal initiative emanating from the self like faith which cannot be withdrawn from the revolutionary like a position or delegation of responsibility can be withdrawn. [sentence as received] He said: "You can therefore revolt by transforming tens of thousands of merchants into producers instead of their being consumers."

He said: "If merchants are now described as being bourgeois, exploiters, consumers and non-producers, then they can revolt and change these descriptions the same way as idolators had earlier ceased worshipping their idols and destroyed them, abstained from drinking alcohol, and freed slaves after taking up Islam which fought all these habits which they had held onto. Their stand was a revolt against themselves, and thus their lives were corrected and became pure and clean."

He said: "Merchants can today carry out a useful revolution for this country and for history and the renaissance of a new civilisation in this society, by transforming tens of thousands of merchants from consumers into producers."

He added: "Libyan soil is the property of all Libyans, and every person has the right of exploiting this Libyan soil with his own private effort, until all his personal needs are satisfied."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi pointed out that the problem of employers and employees had ended and that employers were now entitled to become producers and participate with other producers according to their abilities. "This," he said, "is the new society which we are calling for, a society in which every individual is a partner in socialist ownership and production by himself, or any productive work carried out to satisfy individual needs or present a public service rendered to the people where the people, in (?return) would provide this individual with his needs."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi clarified the task of social security in the new socialist order by saying: "The people will provide the disabled, who are unable to either work or produce, any service to satisfy their needs through the venue of social security."

He said: "Any productive person who is able to work is liable to become disabled, and that if this should happen, society will provide any such person with his needs." "This," he said, "is integration and solidarity, or in other words, social security."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi urged the commerce sector to make revolution and said that "they could declare [words indistinct] it into an agricultural land, with every one of them exploiting a particular area and becoming a producer. Facilities such as those offered to the peasants could be offered to these merchants, so that their farms reach the stage of production. He who has any productive craft other than agriculture is free to work in it and facilities could be offered to him as well."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi indicated that at one point the commercial stores would be closed down and "therefore we should consider the case of those merchants so that they, and their families after them, would not be harmed as the revolution will not accept this situation, for it cannot give salaries to people without work. We have time to consult and discuss the way of transforming this sector into a productive one which deserves to have assistance and facilities."

On personal financial accounts at the [word indistinct] Colonel al-Qadhdhafi indicated that these accounts would remain the (?property of their owners) and under their names, and that there would be [words indistinct] about these accounts, contrary to what some have thought....

"The owners of these accounts, which were collected by (?exploiters) [word indistinct] will drop some of them, within reasonable limits, and invest them in the fields and activities of their work, such as agriculture, industry, their own productive crafts or in building houses for themselves and for their children.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi went on to say: "The revolutionaries led the (?great September) revolution in a world beset with setbacks and amidst [passage indistinct].

MAURITANIA

CONTACTS WITH POLISARIO REPORTEDLY REESTABLISHED

TA111056Y Paris AFP in English 1003 GMT 11 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Algiers, Dec 11 (AFP)--Mauritania, recently accused by Saharan nationalists of rejecting their peace overtures, has reestablished contacts with the nationalists in the Algerian-backed liberation front POLISARIO, the daily EL MOUDJAHID said here today.

The front had accused Mauritanian leaders of "unilaterally" breaking off tentative contacts established after a Mauritanian coup in July in Nouakchott.

Those contacts were initiated after POLISARIO proclaimed a cease-fire in its conflict with Mauritania, shortly after the coup.

Quoting an authoritative Saharan spokesman, EL MOUDJAHID said today that that initial series of contacts had lasted overlong without producing a basis for genuine negotiations.

Mauritania now had to recognise the Saharan people's right to self-determination and independence, and had to end its "occupation" of the southern portion of the Western (formerly Spanish) Sahara, it said.

POLISARIO has been fighting for 3 years with Algerian support for the independence of the Western Sahara, which Mauritanian and Morocco partitioned when Spain withdrew.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI OUTLINES SUPPORT FOR CAMP DAVID ACCORDS

JN112107Y Khartoum SUNA in English 1705 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 11, (SUNA)--President Numayri tonight detailed the reasons behind Sudan's support of Camp David accords.

In his monthly radio-televised programme "Face the Nation", Numayri said Sudan considers Camp David as a step towards an overall peaceful settlement in the Middle East. In lengthy argument he refused war as a means of settling the dispute. "A peace treaty is the alternative for the settlement," he added. The two sides involved in the conflict must be ready to concede in order to reach a settlement of the prolonged dispute," he said.

Numayri touched on the African-American conference and the meetings of the OAU wisemen ad hoc committee recently held in Khartoum and said that Sudan would continue efforts in preaching for peace development and liberation. In this respect he elaborated on the attempts made by Sudan to settle the civil war in neighbouring Chad. He reviewed the early contacts made with former Chadian Supreme Military Council and the opposition fronts which culminated on the basic charter of national reconciliation, concluded last September. The president then outlined Sudan's future strategy in settling the Chadian problem:

1-Sudan will resume efforts to achieve national reconciliation in Chad.

2-To encourage opposition faction to join the process of national unity.

3-To resume effort, within the committee formed by the 15th African summit, to solve the current Chadian-Libyan conflict.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO EXPECTS MAURITANIA TO ELIMINATE CAUSES OF WAR

LD111800Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 11 Dec 78 LD

[Text] As far as the negotiations between the Saharan [word indistinct] and Mauritania are concerned, the POLISARIO Front deplores the fact that hopes for peace are becoming even more blurred as time passes. After having started the processes leading to these negotiations [words indistinct] the POLISARIO Front has come to the conclusion that [words indistinct].

While it has been learned from authorized Saharan sources that the contacts which had been broken off by the Mauritanian side have been reestablished, the Saharan leaders are also expecting the leaders in Nouakchott to show reciptrocity, that is, to eliminate not so much the results of war but the causes of it.

SECRETARY VANCE ARRIVES, MEETS WITH DAYAN

TA111948Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan is now hearing details from U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance about the Egyptian position on the continuation of negotiations. Cyrus Vance's plane landed a few minutes ago at Ben-Gurion Airport, but instead of going to Jerusalem at once, Vance is meeting with Moshe Dayan in the terminal building.

Our correspondent Dan Raviv, who is there, says that in the wake of the information given by Vance, it appears that the government will be able to evaluate the Egyptian position and the proposals the Americans are likely to put forward. This is in spite of the fact that Vance will leave Israel tomorrow, after Mrs Meir's funeral, and will only return here the day after tomorrow for the political talks. The U.S. secretary of state said, on arrival, that he had come to pay homage to the extraordinary figure, Mrs Golda Meir, and he was devoting the efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East to her memory.

U.S. Proposal Reported

TA120530Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Our political correspondent has learned that the United States wants to solve the problem of the linkage and article 6 of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt by attaching accompanying letters to the treaty. Washington suggests that some of Egypt's reservations over article 6, which gives preference to the peace treaty over treaties and alliances that Egypt has with other Arab countries, be mentioned in these letters. Similarly, the United States proposes defining the linkage in an accompanying letter. The United States asks Israel and Egypt to agree to a compromise proposal, according to which the elections for the autonomy's institutions will take place within 1 year from the signing of the treaty. A paragraph about this will be added, saying that if all the parties do their best to hold the elections, the treaty will not be dependent on possible developments in the territories.

POST Gives Details

TA120903Y Jerusalem POST in English 12 Dec 78 p 1 TA

[Excerpt] Egypt is prepared to withdraw its demand for changes in the text of article six (the "priority of obligations") in the draft peace treaty if Israel agrees to a definite 12-month deadline for the Palestinian Arabs' autonomy elections.

This was the burden of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's report to Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan last night on his talks with President Anwar as-Sadat and other Egyptian negotiators in Cairo.

Vance said at Ben-Gurion Airport last night that some progress had been made in his talks in Cairo, but that a number of outstanding issues remained to be resolved.

Soon after his arrival from Cairo to attend Golda Meir's funeral, Vance engaged in conversation with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. The two men met privately at the airport for nearly one hour, until the arrival of Prime Minister Menahem Begin from Oslo. Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman joined them for part of the talks. Begin and Vance then left for Jerusalem, and went immediately to the lying-in-state of Golda Meir.

He only spoke briefly with the premier, however, who drove straight up to Jerusalem to pay his respects at Meir's bier.

The Egyptian softening on article six--predicted to the Jerusalem POST by high sources in Cairo last week--came after Vance stressed to As-Sadat America's extreme reluctance to reopen the draft treaty.

Instead, Vance proposed, Egypt's reservations over the meaning of article six, and its own interpretation which stresses its inter-Arab defence obligations, could be expressed in accompanying, explanatory letters.

On the election timetable (the "linkage"), Vance is pressing his compromise proposal--for a target-date of December 31, 1979, towards which both parties would be committed to negotiate in good faith.

Egypt, it is understood, is not satisfied with the "good faith" wording which the secretary has proposed, and is holding out for a mandatory election date couched in terms of "elections will be held."

Egypt, however, is prepared to sign an accompanying assurance that if a "third party" (implied reference to the Palestinians) makes it objectively impossible to implement the autonomy plan within the deadline, the Israel-Egypt peace treaty would not be affected.

Vance's discussions in Egypt were suspended when he left for Jerusalem to join the U.S. delegation at the funeral of former Prime Minister Golda Meir. He is scheduled to return to Cairo sometime today for what is expected to be a third meeting with As-Sadat.

Vance is then scheduled to fly to Jerusalem again, this time to meet with Prime Minister Menahem Begin and report on the Egyptian positions on the issues that have brought the negotiations to a stalemate.

He is likely to shuttle back to Cairo before the end of the week.

MA'ARIV on Issue

TA120844Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Dec 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Shemu'el Segev]

[Text] In his talks in Cairo U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance succeeded in moderating President as-Sadat's position, to a certain extent, on the two main points in dispute with Israel--the timetable for the implementation of autonomy and the question of article 6.

Vance now expects parallel flexibility in the Government of Israel's position on these two issues. This was reported during the night by sources in the entourage of the secretary of state, who came to Jerusalem to attend Mrs Golda Meir's funeral.

Last night Vance gave a first report to Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan on his two talks with President as-Sadat.

A practical discussion of the two points in dispute will only be held in Jerusalem tomorrow, after the third talk and the agreement of the U.S. secretary of state with the president of Egypt. Vance is due to return to Cairo today after attending Golda Meir's funeral.

Before that he will meet with Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil and with acting Foreign Minister Butrus Ghali and will then dine with President as-Sadat. Tomorrow at noon he will return to Israel. Sources in the U.S. secretary of state's entourage said that if Vance finds sufficient flexibility in the Government of Israel's position he may return to Cairo on Thursday in an attempt to conclude the negotiations by 17 December.

Israeli sources formed the impression during the night that the moderation in As-Sadat's position does not yet satisfy the Government of Israel, but at least it permits the negotiations to continue.

Among other things, there is reference to a possibility that President Carter will exchange letters with As-Sadat and Begin expressing his views on the two disputed issues, but in a form binding both sides.

Vance Leaves for Cairo

TA121141Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 12 Dec 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] Here is a report from the airport. The U.S. Air Force aircraft with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and his entourage on board left Ben-Gurion Airport a few minutes ago en route to Cairo. Vance did not talk to correspondents at the airport, but hurried to the aircraft where the ambassador-designate to the United States, Efrayyim 'Evron, bid him farewell. Vance is to return to Israel tomorrow morning.

U.S. DELEGATION TO MRS MEIR'S FUNERAL ARRIVES

TA111838Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 Dec 78 TA

[Text] The U.S. delegation to Golda Meir's funeral, headed by Miss Lillian Carter, President Carter's mother, arrived in Israel a short while ago. The delegation includes Dr Henry Kissinger, Senator Moynihan, Senator Ribicoff, Mrs Vance, Arthur Goldberg and Mrs Humphrey.

BEGIN HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE IN OSLO, RETURNS HOME

TA111803Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 11 Dec 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin held a news conference at noon before he left Norway. In his opening remarks, Mr Begin thanked his hosts and then replied to questions by correspondents. [begin recording]

[Unidentified correspondent] At the beginning of the press conference the prime minister was asked whether peace had got stuck on a shoal.

[Begin] Israel announced more than 2 weeks ago that it was prepared to sign the peace treaty with its contents and clauses as they were determined on 11 November, and we adhere to this announcement. We could have signed the peace treaty 2 weeks ago. We can sign that same treaty this week, too. All the other things depend on the other side.

[Unidentified correspondent] The [Israel] Broadcasting Authority asked whether the date for the negotiations would be extended at the end of the 3 months and if there would also be an extension of the freeze on settlements.

[Begin] We have another few days and I would not want to dismiss the possibility, if there is agreement from the other side, of signing the peace treaty as the two delegations have already agreed, so that we can add the signatures of the representatives of our countries. But if it emerges that this is impossible, that is, that we must lose any hope of signing the peace treaty, I committed myself to the President of the United States not to agree to new settlements in Judaea and Samaria for 3 months, which is the period of negotiations with Egypt and we will keep this commitment.

[Unidentified correspondent] The NBC correspondent asked whether Israel would reconsider the Egyptian demand for a timetable. The prime minister replied no, since the problems of the structure and responsibility of the administrative council and the other issues connected with the foundation of autonomy are beyond the control of both Israel and Egypt. We can only lay the ground for autonomy. At the news conference the prime minister repeated his emphasis on Israel's commitment to the Camp David agreements.

[Begin--in English] Israel will be true and faithful to that agreement it signed and to any agreement it may sign. We have to carry out the Camp David agreement, as both Egypt and Israel signed it.

[Unidentified correspondent--translates into Hebrew and continues:] On another matter, the prime minister was asked if the matter of oil supplies from Norway to Israel had been discussed during his visit. There had been no such discussion, the prime minister replied, but I would like to point out that the issue was indeed raised.

[Begin--in English] There was no such discussion, but I would like to add the question was raised. There was no such discussion.

[Unidentified correspondent] And, at the end, Mr Begin was asked whether he was disappointed that President as-Sadat did not go to Oslo to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Why should I be disappointed, he replied. It is the Norwegians who should be disappointed.

[Begin--in English] Why should I be disappointed? The Norwegians should be disappointed. [end recording]

Arrives in Israel

TA112110Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 11 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin returned from Oslo a short time ago. Soon after arriving at Lod Airport he left for Jerusalem in order to walk past Mrs Meir's coffin. U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance was waiting for him at the airport. He arrived from Cairo about 1 and 1/2 hours earlier and talked with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan while waiting.

DMC MEMBERS REPORTEDLY TO VOTE FOR NATIONAL SERVICE BILL

TA102015Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Dec 78 TA

[Text] The Democratic Movement Knesset members will vote this week in favor of passing the national service bill despite the fervent objection of the MAFDAL and Agudat Yisra'el factions, which have threatened to withdraw from the coalition. The secretary of the Democratic Movement said that the threats of withdrawal will not change the decision made by the party insitutions to permit the Knesset members to vote according to their consciences.

The vote in the Knesset is to take place this Wednesday.

MAFDAL Withdrawal Threat

TA110913Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Dec 78 p 13 TA

[By Yosef Waxman, Yehoshu'a Bizur and Avraham Tirosh]

[Excerpts] Minister for Religious Affairs Aharon Abu-Hazera declared yesterday to cabinet ministers that if the bill which makes national service for girls compulsory is accepted, the MAFDAL may withdraw from the cabinet.

Governmental circles regard this declaration as "serious," and there were also some people who said that it is not inconceivable that the cabinet will fall over this.

A senior MAFDAL personality told the MA'ARIV correspondent this morning that it is not inconceivable that the cabinet will fall over this issue; it is clear beyond any doubt that Agudat Yisra'el will immediately withdraw from the cabinet if the bill for recruiting girls for national service is passed.

It was further reported to the MA'ARIV correspondent this morning that Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg knew about such a possibility even before he went abroad, but that he announced he would not return to vote even if the cabinet were to fall over this issue.

MAFDAL personalities hinted this morning that if the cabinet fell against this background, this might also serve as a "solution" for differences on political grounds which exist between the MAFDAL and the prime minister. By this they mean all the problems concerning the peace negotiations. As is well known, there are circles in the MAFDAL which object to Israel's concessions.

"Indeed, it is not inconceivable that the cabinet will slip on the banana peel and fall," MAFDAL personalities said this morning.

If the Knesset approves the compulsory national service for girls bill as initiated by MAPAM MK Hayya Grossman, the cabinet will immediately fall, the MAFDAL faction chairman, MK Yehuda Ben-Me'ir, told the MA'ARIV correspondent last night.

MK Ben-Me'ir emphasized that as soon as the Knesset approves the bill after the first reading, Agudat Yisra'el will immediately leave the coalition and he will advise the MAFDAL to do likewise. Only if the bill is not passed in the first reading will a governmental crisis be avoided.

The chairman of the MAFDAL faction expressed himself very harshly toward the Democratic Movement, whose secretary, Ram Ron, announced yesterday that the faction Knesset members will, as in the past, enjoy freedom to vote [as their conscience dictates] on religious affairs and that they will most probably vote with the opposition in favor of the bill.

The Likud has called home MK's Yosef Rom and Yosef Tamir, who are abroad, and is pressuring all its members to vote against MK Grossman's proposal. There are several Liberal Party Knesset members who do not want to vote against the proposal, such as MK Avraham Katz and MK Sara Doron. MK Ge'ula Kohen from Herut has announced that she will support MK Grossman's proposal.

Much depends on the way the "Horowitz group" in La'am will vote. MK Moshe Shamir said last night that the group's four Knesset members will hold a meeting on Wednesday morning to decide on how to vote. He estimated that no freedom to vote separately would be granted and that, instead, a clear position would be determined. Shamir emphasized that he himself was in favor of activating the national service program.

Likud Knesset faction chairman MK Avraham Sharir said that whereas in political matters one can sometimes "look sideways" with respect to an extraordinary proposal, this cannot be done regarding national service. In his opinion, none of the Likud Knesset members should be permitted to vote separately on this issue.

He added: "The Democratic Movement would also be making a mistake if it does not vote together with the coalition. A governmental crisis and early elections are not exactly what the Democratic Movement needs at this particular moment."

Corfu Expects No Crisis

TA110922Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 11 Dec 78 p 2 TA

[By HA'AREZ correspondent on party affairs]

[Excerpt] "There is no danger that the cabinet will fall on Wednesday as a result of the vote on the bill for national service for girls," coalition executive chairman MK Hayyim Corfu told the HA'AREZ correspondent last night.

Corfu said he had met with Democratic Movement Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Prof Yiga'el Yadin and discussed this, as well as with other Knesset members from the [Democratic] Movement, and he found that not every member of the faction will vote in favor of the bill and several Democratic Movement members will abstain; some, he said, will vote with the cabinet and others will vote against it.

On the other hand, the secretary general of the Democratic Movement, Ram Ron, said last night he believed that all seven faction Knesset members will vote for the bill.

MAFDAL Knesset faction chairman MK Yehuda Ben-Me'ir said that if the cabinet does not have a majority, it would be better if it fell. He has announced that if the Democratic Movement votes against the coalition's position, the MAFDAL will regard any agreement signed between the Democratic Movement and the coalition as null and void.

MK Corfu said, following talks he held with all the leaders of the coalition parties, that the picture is "satisfactory" and that he does not foresee a coalition crisis. In his estimation, at most two or three Knesset members from the coalition might be absent. At the same time, he said he was not sure how MK's Moshe Shamir and Ge'ula Kohen would vote.

MK Shamir told the HA'AREZ correspondent yesterday he had not yet made up his mind about the vote and said his group would meet either today or tomorrow to decide on this matter. This refers to the Independent Liberals belonging to the Yiga'el Horowitz-Zalman Shovel splinter group, who regard themselves as part of the coalition despite their separation from Health Minister Eli'ezer Shostak's group.

Yesterday, MAFDAL MK Yehuda Ben-Me'ir attacked the Democratic Movement, saying that by voting in favor of the bill proposed by the opposition, it would be partner to a provocative move intended to bring the cabinet down. He added that this is a party which enjoys a wholly disproportionate share of power in the cabinet and this is immoral. He added that Minister Yosef Burg had informed the prime minister that if the coalition could not guarantee a majority in this vote, it had no right to govern.

MAFDAL Holds More Consultations

TA111225Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Dec 78 TA

[Text] The MAFDAL will not resign from the coalition even if the Democratic Movement votes in favor of the national service bill for girls. This transpired at a meeting that took place this morning between MAFDAL faction chairman MK Yehuda Ben-Me'ir and chairman of the coalition executive MK Hayyim Corfu. MK Ben-Me'ir told our correspondent, Amnon Nadav, that the test of the coalition's future lies in the result of the vote. MK Corfu said he does not foresee a crisis because about 60 Knesset members will vote against the bill.

The secretary of the Democratic Movement, Ram Ron, said he assumes that all members of the faction will vote in favor of the bill even though the faction has not held deliberations on the issue.

IRANIAN JEWS ARRIVE, COMMENT ON SITUATION

TA080953Y Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0755 GMT 8 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 8 Dec--Passengers who recently arrived from Tehran reported that there are great fears among the Jewish communities in the capital and other Iranian cities about what might happen to Iran's Jews if the shah is overthrown.

The passengers who have come to Israel said that there were rumors that Shi'ite leader Ayatollah Khomeyni has announced through his followers and members of his sect that Jews should not be allowed to leave Iran. The passengers added that the Iranian leader in exile in Paris has expressed the opinion that when his men assume power in Iran, they will be able to force Israel to withdraw from all the conquered territories in return for granting the Jews of Iran permission to leave for Israel.

They also said that the latest events and the disturbances that have taken place in the capital and other cities in the country have brought about a state of a complete abrogation of financial commitments and various agreements signed between Jewish merchants and their non-Jewish neighbors. The agreements are not honored, checks are not paid and debtors do not repay their debts. So far, the damages have amounted to many millions of Iranian rials.

Communication by telephone or Telex between the families in Iran and their relatives in Israel is disrupted. Jews who wish to emigrate to Israel have difficulties selling their property because no one will buy it, or the price they can get is so low that they cannot shut down their businesses there and come to Israel.

Among those who have come to Israel are dozens of Iranian youths, 11th and 12th graders, who have come here to continue their higher school education. They will study according to the Iranian Education Ministry curriculum and will take some courses in Persian.

Khomeyni Remarks Reported

TA111826Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Dec 78 TA

[Text] The leader of the Shi'ites in Iran, Ayatollah Khomeyni said that if the shah is overthrown and a government of the sort he wants is established in Iran, he will sever relations with Israel. Israel is our enemy, Khomeyni said, and it will not receive oil from Iran. The interviewer asked the Shi'ite leader if it was correct that half of the funds reaching his supporters came from the PLO. Khomeyni replied that he had no information on this, but he confirmed that his people regard the Palestinians with sympathy.

Preparations for Immigration

TA111840Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 11 Dec 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The situation in Iran and the future of the Jewish community there were raised today at the weekly meeting of the leadership of the Jewish Agency and pushed other issues such as the problem of the teachers leaving for schools abroad off the agenda. The head of the Immigration Department of the Jewish Agency and the deputy chairman of the directorate, Mr Rafa'el (Kotlovitch), presented a program for the mass absorption of Jews from Iran. Here is a report by our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh:

At Ben-Gurion Airport a special counter will be put into operation, with the resumption of flights from Tehran, to deal with the people coming from Iran. The counter will be staffed by absorption officials who speak Persian and who have been trained to deal with the special problems of those arriving. Signs, publications and aid material have been prepared in Persian. According to an agreement between the Ministry of the Interior and the Jewish Agency, all immigration procedures will be made shorter and simpler. Even Jews who came to Israel as tourists will be able, by appealing to the regional branches of the Ministry of the Interior, to change their status rapidly to immigrants or temorary residents.

With the increasing rioting in Iran, before the airport in Tehran was closed non-Jewish citizens also came to Israel as tourists to escape from the expected riots. According to official statistics of the Immigration Department, over the last 3 months 8,500 tourists from Iran have come to Israel--Jews and non-Jews. Over the last few days alone 1,000 Jews have arrived. Over the last 3 months, 500 immigrants have been absorbed in Israel. As opposed to this, last year only 300 immigrants came to Israel from Iran.

The immigration envoys acting in Iran have granted 200 entry permits to Jewish students, but only 70 chose to come to Israel; the others left for Europe or the United States. Another 3,000 Jews behaved as they did. It is worth pointing out that one of the target countries chosen by these Jews is Switzerland. The Swiss attraction is the large banks, where many Jews keep some of their money.

The immigrants will be offered permanent housing in Lod, Ramallah, Bat-Yam and Holon. The Immigration Department will soon hold a central congress in Tel Aviv Mann Auditorium for those coming from Iran. The congress will be held under the slogan stressed by the immigration elements in Israel: Openly, and without hesitation, Jews of Iran come to Israel.

POST: GUSH EMUNIM PLANNING UNAUTHORIZED SETTLEMENTS

TA110635Y Jerusalem POST in English 11 Dec 78 p 2 TA

[By Jerusalem POST reporter]

[Text] Gush Emunim is planning to establish six unauthorized settlements in the West Bank, possibly immediately after the government's three-month freeze expires next Sunday.

The garinim (settlement groups) are planning to move to the hilly regions of Judaea and Samaria and to the Jericho area, a senior source in the militant organization told the Jerusalem POST yesterday.

Gush Emunim's settlement committee is scheduled to meet at the movement's headquarters in Ramot Eshkol in Jerusalem tomorrow afternoon to decide details.

W. BANK SETTLEMENT GIVEN PREFERRED DEVELOPMENT STATUS

TA110937Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Dec 78 p 7 TA

[Text] Judaea and Samaria settlements have been granted the status of preferred development areas. The prime minister, in his capacity as the industry, commerce and tourism minister, has decided that the settlements of Teqo'a and Sanur will enjoy the status of an A-Plus Development Area and Bet Horon that of an A Development Area.

SUPREME COURT DISCUSSES WEST BANK LANDOWNERS' APPEAL

TA112019Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Dec 78 TA

[Excerpts] And from here we go to the Supreme Court of Justice. Can a distinction be made between the considerations of the Government of Israel and those of the IDF regarding the policy of settlement in Judaea and Samaria? This question was raised today during the debate on the conditional order issued by the court following an appeal by landowners from Tubas and Bayt El whose lands were taken over. Here is a report by our correspondent Dan Semama from the Supreme Court:

[Begin videotape] Lawyer Ilyas (?Khuri) demanded that the lands of the landowners from Tubas and Bayt El should be returned. He claimed that the transfer of an Israeli civilian population to houses in a conquered area is a violation of the Geneva Convention. In addition, taking over the lands is a violation of a basic right of the citizen over his property. Lawyer (?Khuri) claimed that the establishment of the settlements in the West Bank was the offspring of decisions on the political level and not the military level. It is inconceivable that the army should take over our lands, he said, and give them to others, to the settlers. The cabinet is trying to create a political situation.

(?Khuri) added that there are lands in the West Bank which the government owns, and if it wants to establish settlements there is no need to evict Arabs from their lands. He later said that he rejected the claim that the settlements were established for security reasons, but if that were the truth, the period of the military government's control is restricted in time and they are building something now in the settlements in the West Bank which will continue to exist even beyond the military government's period of existence. These are permanent settlements, he said.

The court's decision will be given in a few weeks. [end videotape]

TEHRAN REPORTS MARCHES IN CAPITAL, PROVINCES

ID111456 [Editorial Report ID] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1030 GMT on 11 December carries a 25-minute report on the demonstrations in Tehran and various provincial centers, including dispatches from correspondents at the various locations.

On the situation in Tehran, the announcer says: "On the basis of reports from various parts of the capital, while marchers were moving toward Shahyad Square, various groups, shouting antinational slogans and carrying posters with political and antinational slogans, tried to join the marchers. According to reports, the marches toward Shahyad Square had a nonreligious and disorderly character, and the actions of a number of people shouting communist and antinational slogans and carrying portraits of communist leaders resulted in disorder in the march toward the square, in contrast to yesterday. This led a number of people, protesting against the slogans and antinational demonstrations, to leave the march and disperse. Meanwhile, some of their eminences asked the marchers to disperse." "The number of demonstrators was definitely less than yesterday."

The radio then carries a recording of another demonstration in Baharestan Square, in front of the Majlis, where a correspondent reports on the mourning ceremony. In the background shouting can be heard, with demonstrators chanting about the martyrdom of Husayn.

Reporting on similar marches in other towns and cities, the announcer says: "In different parts of the country, mourning ceremonies were held in commemorate Ashura, the anniversary of the death of Husayn ibn 'Ali. Along with these ceremonies, marches, combined with communist and antinational demonstrations, were also held in certain cities." The radio carries correspondents' reports from Rezaiyeh and Ahvaz, the latter says: "The military governorate of Ahvaz has reduced the curfew hours. The curfew now runs from 2300 to 0600 to allow people to participate in the mourning ceremony to commemorate the demise of the great martyr."

The correspondent in Ardabil reports: "While mourning ceremonies were taking place in Ardabil, other groups of people staged demonstrations and, with no mention of Husayn's name, shouted antinational slogans and began a march."

Demonstrations End Without Incident

TA111723Y Paris AFP in English 1653 GMT 11 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Dec 11 (AFP)--Today's anti-shah demonstration here by more than a million and a half people ended calmly after eight hours of parades conducted without incident.

Demonstrators today markedly outnumbered the people who took to the streets yesterday and religious leaders put the number of people involved in today's marches as high as two and a half million.

The slogans--generally more violent, with people today chanting "death to the shah" and "Khomeyni is our leader"--and certain placards carried by the demonstrators even went so far as to call for "armed struggle."

Similar demonstrations took place in other parts of the country--equally without incident--reports here said. Altogether it was estimated that some five million people joined in demonstrations in Iran today.

In the capital, as night fell and the people disappeared from the streets, the walls of the city continued a mute appeal for the departure of the shah from power: thousands of posters remained on the walls of buildings as a reminder of the people's parades.

There are no demonstrations officially called for tomorrow.

'POLITICALLY CHARGED' DEMONSTRATION REPORTED IN ESFAHAN

TA111820Y Paris AFP in English 1751 GMT 11 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Dec 11 (AFP)--Anti-shah demonstrators clashed with troops in the central Iranian city of Esfahan today, opposition sources reported.

The clashes took place at the end of a huge demonstration in which hundreds of thousands marched in a politically-charged atmosphere.

The sources said the army had opened fire on the demonstrators, but it was not immediately known whether any casualties had been recorded.

Eight Reported Dead

TA111917Y Paris AFP in English 1901 GMT 11 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Dec 11 (AFP)--At least eight anti-shah protesters died in clashes with troops in the provinces today, opposition sources reported.

The sources said three demonstrators were killed in the central Iranian city of Esfahan when security forces used tear grenades to disperse an attack on the local headquarters of the political police.

In the northwestern town of Sadasht, at least five people were killed when troops opened fire on demonstrators who were heading for a local jail where several political prisoners are held, the opposition National Front Party said.

More than 500,000 people were reported to have marched in Esfahan. No incidents, however, were reported in Tehran, where more than 1.5 million took part in demonstrations.

Further Violent Incidents

TA121007Y Paris AFP in English 0938 GMT 12 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Dec 12 (AFP)--More violent incidents broke out in the central Iranian city of Esfahan this morning following clashes there late yesterday, opposition sources reported.

Soldiers were firing but it was not immediately known if there were more fatalities.

Opposition sources affirmed that three people were killed yesterday when demonstrators attacked the office of the SAVAK (political police).

From 400,000 to 600,000 citizens took part in yesterday's religious and anti-regime demonstration there.

The other main cities apparently were quiet today following demonstrations yesterday in which an estimated five million Iranians took part.

The airport in Tehran was reopened today after having been closed on Saturday night for security reasons despite the exodus of apprehensive Westerners.

The curfew, lifted to permit the Shi'ite Moslem mourning marches yesterday and the day before, will go into effect again tonight at 9 p.m.

LONGER CURFEW HOURS REESTABLISHED AFTER DAYS OF MOURNING

JN111430Y Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1327 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Announcement No 25 of the military governor of Tehran and vicinity]

[Text] The holding of gatherings on the 2 days of mourning, 10 and 11 December was announced as authorized by the office of the military governor of Tehran and vicinity and a change was also granted in the hours of the curfew in order to assure the people of the capital city the greatest possible participation in the mourning ceremonies and the memory services of the leader of the martyrs, his holiness, Imam Husayn, peace be upon him. It is now announced that beginning at 0500, Tuesday, 12 December, all the regulations of the office of the military governor will be carried out with the utmost firmness, and the hours of evening curfew will return to what they were: 2100 to 0500 the following day.

[Signed] Military governor of Tehran and vicinity, Gholam 'Ali Oveisi

SHAH ORDERS NONOBSERVANCE OF AZARBAYJAN DELIVERANCE DAY

ID120855Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 12 Dec 78 ID

[Text] Today, 21 Azar, is Azarbayjan deliverance day. Because of the coincidence of this day with the mourning days of Husayn ibn 'Ali, the third Shi'ite imam, peace be upon him, on order from the shah, Azarbayjan deliverance day ceremonies will not be observed today.

AIRPORT TO RESUME ACTIVITY; FLIGHTS SCHEDULED

ID120900Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 12 Dec 78 ID

[Summary] Mehrabad Airport is to resume activity today. Mr Nazemi, the deputy managing director and spokesman for the National Iranian Airlines, told our correspondent that flights to Europe will begin at 1000 today. Flights to Baghdad, Karachi, Amman and Peking will begin this afternoon. Internal flights to various provinces will take place at 1130 and 1300. Return flights from provinces to Tehran will take place according to schedule.

TEHRAN PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO REOPEN 13 DECEMBER

ID120958Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 12 Dec 78 ID

[Text] Schools in the capital will be opened tomorrow. Dr Mohammad Reza 'Ameli-Tehrani, the minister of education and training, in a telephone conversation with the Voice of Iran correspondent, announced this morning: All kindergartens and primary schools in Tehran and the suburbs of Rey and Shemiran will resume their educational activities as from tomorrow morning. Concerning the current efforts to reopen the secondary schools in Tehran and the suburbs of Shemiran and Rey, he said that a decision on this will be announced later.

The Tehran education and training authority had announced on 3 December that for the safety of the students and security of the schools in the capital and to prevent possible danger, all schools in Tehran and suburbs would be closed until Wednesday 13 December. The announcement by the Tehran education and training authority also asked the parents to take care of their children to guide and encourage them to observe the laws and regulations in all circumstances.

TEHRAN: 705 PRISONERS FREED AFTER HUMAN RIGHTS DAY PARDON

ID111440Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Dec 78 ID

[Text] The 705 people, convicted by military tribunals and judicial courts, who were pardoned by the shah on the occasion of the human rights day, have been freed and have returned to their families.

KYODO: NATIONAL FRONT OFFICIAL WARNS OF INCREASED VIOLENCE

OW120032Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0020 GMT 12 Dec 78 OW

[Text] Tehran, 11 Dec (KYODO)--An official of the National Front, Iran's largest opposition party, told KYODO Monday night that he hoped Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi will leave the country in response to the will of the Iranian people indicated in demonstrations held Sunday and Monday.

He stressed that the National Front will have to give in to more violent influences if the shah did not reply to the wishes of the people.

He further said that the 17-point resolution of his party seeking, among others, the dissolution of the present shah system, was an appeal to the people and that it was accepted by all groups participating in the demonstrations Sunday and Monday.

The official said the resolution was a warning to the shah and added there is no guarantee that the people will continue peaceful actions.

He noted that there was a political vacuum in Iran and that the National Front was the largest force able to organize a government. He added that the front was ready to take over the reins of government if its demands were met.

The official further said that the shah was not the symbol of national integrity in Iran but has become a symbol of instability and destruction.

COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS DESCRIBED

JN111515Y Abadan National Oil Radio in Persian 1027 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Religious mourners marched through the streets of Abadan while beating their chests and whipping themselves with chains. In Ahvaz the people paid their respect to the memory of Husayn ibn 'Ali, peace be upon him, and revered his sacrifice for the revival of Islam. In Ahvaz religious processions were joined by thousands of people. In order to facilitate the mourning processions for the third leader of the world's Shi'ite community, the office of the military governor shortened the hours of curfew making them from 2300 hours until 0600. Today, a vast number of people participated in mourning processions in the cities of Hamadan, Mashad, Qom, Zenjan, Kermanshah, Gorgan, and some other cities as well. Demonstrators in these processions marched through the streets while shouting antinational and communist slogans. Out of respect for the mourning of the leader of martyrs, Husayn ibn 'Ali, peace be upon him, the police and law enforcement officials did not interfere at all in these demonstrations.

NEW WORK HOURS ANNOUNCED FOR ABADAN OIL WORKERS

JN111230Y Abadan National Oil Radio in Persian 1027 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Announcement from National Oil Radio concerning adjustment in oil industry work schedule]

[Text] Due to the change in the curfew hours, the following will be the work schedules for the oil industry of Abadan and the petrochemical complex: Morning shift from 6 am to 2 pm, day shift from 2 pm to 10 pm and evening shift from 10 pm to 6 am on the following day. Shift workers of the Mah Shahr export harbor will leave Abadan at 6 am to begin work in Mah Shahr at 8 am, and they will return from Mah Shahr at 4 pm. Day shift and evening shift will leave Abadan at 2 pm to begin work at 4 pm and will return from Mah Shahr at 8 am on the following day. This is Abadan, National Oil Radio.

ISSUANCE OF NEW CURFEW PASSES TO OFFICIALS IN ABADAN REPORTED

JN120045Y Abadan National Oil Radio in Persian 1710 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Communique by the military governor of Abadan concerning issuance of new curfew passes to officials and organizations]

[Text] Special passes used during the curfew hours by officials and institutions requiring such permits will be canceled effective 13 December 1978. Therefore, those who have been issued such passes should contact the headquarters of the military governor's office located at No 45 Rem, Manzariye. They must come in person and bring with them the appropriate roster of names and one photo so they may change their passes as of 13 December 1978.

[Signed] Military governor of Abadan and vicinity, Brig Gen Jahangir Esfandiari

CURFEW HOURS UNCHANGED IN AHVAZ, VICINITY

JN121450Y Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1835 GMT 11 Dec 78 JN

[Communique No 19 by the military governorate of Ahvaz and vicinity]

[Text] Dear fellow citizens, as declared in communique No 18, the parading of mourning processions was permitted in the city of Ahvaz. This was done to insure the respected citizens the greatest possible participation in the mourning ceremonies for Imam Husayn during the two sacred days of Tasu'a and 'Ashura [10-11 Dec 78].

The public's attention is hereby drawn to the following points: 1. Curfew hours will remain unchanged from 2300 until 0600. 2. The holding of mourning sessions in mosques and religious centers is permitted. 3. Effective 12 Dec 78, all the martial law regulations will be strictly enforced.

[Signed] Military governor of Ahvaz and vicinity, Maj Gen Gholam Hoseyn Shams Tabrizi

CORRESPONDENT TALKS WITH ANTI-SHAH, ANTI-U.S. DEMONSTRATORS

AU110923Y Rome ANSA in English 0800 GMT 11 Dec 78 AU

[Excerpts] Tehran, Dec 11 (ANSA)--At least two million persons took part Sunday morning in Tehran in the most colossal and civilized mass demonstrations in the history of recent revolution.

"This demonstration is our popular referendum," several persons said to the "ANSA cor respondent". "The popular will is so clear today, having demonstrated that one can talk without talking, making it clear that the shah must go." In fact, the participation and solidarity of the Iranian people make the future very uncertain. What the Iranian people succeeded in showing Sunday more than anything else was the desire to speak, to inform the world that the regime must change, that the shah and the Pahlavi Dynasty must go. As soon as they saw a journalist, demonstrators rushed to speak, asking him to inform the world of the truth of what is happening in Iran.

Many persons said, "we are not communists. Communism cannot exist in a Moslem nation... we are fed up with 25 years of oppression...tell the world that the Islamic government we want is not a step back-wards because our religion has in it social and political laws."

Other demonstrators told the "ANSA" correspondent, "We will continue to give oil to the Italians because they are friends and because they have never hurt us. But enough of the Americans. The Americans have ruined us. Carter is responsible for the chaos in our country...the shah has been the disgrace of the Iranian people for 25 years."

The demonstration ended in the early afternoon and is expected to be picked up again today. Similar demonstrations took place in Mashad (800 thousand persons), Tabriz (700 thousand), Esfahan (300 thousand), Qom, Shiraz, Abadan and Sanshan.

KHOMEYNI: OPPOSITION WILL START ARMED STRUGGLE 'SOON'

LD111501Y Brussels LE SOIR in French 5 Dec 78 p 3 LD

[Abed Attar report on 3 December interview at Neauphle-le-Chateau with Ayatollah Khomeyni and Iranian Freedom Movement (IFM) leader (Sadegh Ghotb Zadeh): "Head of Religious Opposition to Shah: 'To Kill or Be Killed on Allah's Path Leads to Paradise'"--names in parentheses as published]

[Excerpt] On the subject of Iranian oil which, when all is said and done, is the main concern of the United States and European countries, Ayatollah Khomeyni told us that it will be sold to anyone who wants it. "As for the revenue we will receive from it, it will be devoted to the country's economic and social development."

"On the diplomatic front," the imam added, "the Islamic republic will maintain relations with all capitals which accept the principle of mutual respect and noninterference in Iran's internal affairs."

The ayatollah receives us in a little room as sober as the "headquarters" waiting room. He spoke in a low voice with majestic serenity. This 76-year old man looks very young for his age, blooming with health and confidence.

Among Moslem countries is there a model which will be followed by the future Iranian republic? The imam did not answer this question directly but confined himself to saying that it will be based on the laws and teachings of Islam.

Who will be the republic's future leaders? The answer was again brief and guarded: "Their names will be announced when the time is right." And why did (National Front leader) Mr Sanjabi leave Paris for Tehran when (according to his daughter's statements) he was aware that he would be arrested? "I do not know." Was there an agreement between you and Mr Sanjabi? "No, but Mr Sanjabi accepted our position."

Was Sanjabi's Arrest Staged?

For his part, Mr (Sadegh Ghotb Zadeh), an IFM leader, displayed a much harsher attitude: "To begin with," he told us, "the National Front has no foundations among the people. It is confined to a few political personalities. Mr Sanjabi's arrest was staged by the regime to give him some prestige so that subsequently he can be made into a leader acceptable to the Iranian people. Moreover, at the moment he is at a military base where he is supplied with every comfort and at the same time is enjoying the good company of former Premier Hoveyda and Former SAVAK chief General (Nassiri). The purpose of this entire operation is to save the shah's throne by establishing a constitutional monarchy. Mr Sanjabi is calling for a referendum on this subject which will be organized under the present regime's wing. As far as we are concerned, the shah's departure must precede any referendum."

Since the situation is in deadlock, is armed struggle the only option left? And when will it take place? Soon, the imam declared to us, admitting that he has already launched his slogan: "To kill or be killed on Allah's path leads to paradise." Mr (Ghotb Zadeh), always more talkative, claimed that the IFM " is preparing for this struggle." And, according to PLO member Hani al-Hasan, the Palestinian resistance is helping to train the Iranian opposition and supplying it with arms. But Mr (Ghotb Zadeh) remained silent on this issue.

As we know, President Giscard d'Estaing stressed at his last press conference that "France is not a territory from which appeals to violence can be launched." In this case, will Khomeyni's visa for residence in France, which expires on 5 January, be renewed or is he planning to leave France, and if so for which country?

"No decision has yet been taken," the imam told us. According to Mr (Ghotb Zadeh), there is talk of seeking asylum in an Arab country. Syria and Algeria are on the list. Libya, which is suspected of being responsible for the disappearance of Imam (El Sadr) (the Iranian-born Lebanese Shi'ite leader) is ruled out. What about Algeria? "Everything depends on President Boumediene's successor," Mr (Ghotb) explained. And Syria? "It is not certain." [paragraph continues]

(In fact, President al-Asad has recently become reconciled with the Baghdad regime). "Under pressure from the shah, Iraq applied more and more restrictions to isolate me from the outside world " the imam recalled.

Finally contrary to certain rumors, Khomeyni is not planning to return to Iran for the time being and he denied that Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari of Qom has asked him to do so. According to Mr (Ghotb Zadeh), the latter is not an IFM member; it is Ayatollah (Taleghani) and Messers (Medhi) Bazargan and Yadollah Sahabi who are running the movement in Iran.

Clearly, the moderate wing of the opposition (headed by Shari'at-Madari, Sanjabi and former Premier Ali (Amini), which is the shah's last card apart from the army, is disowned by Khomeyni.

KHOMEYNI DISCUSSES CUTTING OIL TO COUNTRIES SUPPORTING SHAH

TA111533Y Paris AFP in English 1515 GMT 11 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Paris, Dec 11 (AFP)--Iranian opposition leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni declared here today that if he and his followers succeeded in setting up an Islamic government in Iran "we will no longer sell oil to the countries that support the shah."

The exiled Shi'ite Moslem religious leader, in an appeal to nations and governments that support the shah specifically called on members of the U.S. Congress to ask President Jimmy Carter why he supported "a regime to which the Iranian people are unanimously opposed."

People of other nations supporting the shah must ask their authorities the same question he said.

Ayatollah Khomeyni also called on Iranian Army officers to leave the army and "ally themselves with the people " commenting that they would be "welcomed with open arms" by an "Islamic government which is the government of justice and a national government."

Such a government would improve living conditions for peasants in Iran, he affirmed.

Aides to the ayatollah said the main countries referred to in the opposition leader's threat of cutting off oil supplies were the U.S., Britain and the Soviet Union.

SANJABI: 'NO COOPERATION POSSIBLE' WITH SHAH'S REGIME

LD111739Y Turin LA STAMPA in Italian 8 Dec 78 p 13 LD

[Igor Man 7 December interview in Tehran with Iranian opposition leader Karim Sanjabi: "The Shah Must Submit to the People"]

[Excerpts] Tehran--Karim Sanjabi receives us less than 24 hours after his release. The 25 days in prison have left their mark on the secular opposition leader. Behind his gold-rimmed glasses his eyes are red and as he approaches us in the drawing room of his villa in the "royal quarter" of Jamaran, he staggers slightly. When we embrace, I feel that the impeccable brown suit he is wearing clothes the fragile body of a 70 year-old man. But his voice is vigorous.

We tell him how there was a rumor in parliament that he had been arrested on 11 November, immediately after his return from Paris (where he met with Ayatollah Khomeyni) to be subjected to "pressures" to induce him to join a coalition government. Mossadeq's former minister replies proudly: "Karim Sanjabi is not someone who can allow himself to be swayed by a certain kind of pressure."

[Question] But it was said--again in parliament--that very precise conditions had been set for your release.

[Answer] No conditions and no preliminary negotiations. I was arrested illegally and my release puts an end to an illegal act.

[Question] Since your imprisonment have you revised your position somewhat, in view of the latest events? A coalition government seems to be the only solution.

[Answer] I am the same as always: My position remains unchanged. I remain loyal to the three points of principle agreed in Paris with Ayatollah Khomeyni. [answer ends]

This is what the three points state: The monarchy--because of its continuous violations of the law, for having aided corruption and for its submission to foreign powers--has lost all legitimacy; the Iranian nationalist and Islamic movement cannot give its assent to any so-called coalition government as long as the present illegal system still stands; the Iranian Government must conform to the precepts of Islam and the principles of democracy. Every decision of a constitutional nature must be taken by universal suffrage. "It is pointless," Sanjabi continues, "to ask whether I am prepared to join a coalition government. The second point speaks for itself: With this illegal system, no cooperation is possible." In his latest interview, granted in Paris on 4 December, Khomeyni ruled out any possibility of a regency council until the heir apparent finishes his studies in America and takes the throne.

[Question] When Khomeyni made these remarks, you were in prison, Sanjabi. What can you add?

[Answer] The National Opposition Front and the religious movement are strongly united. There must be substantial changes in order to achieve a coalition government acceptable to the people.

[Question] What fate awaits the shah?

[Answer] You can hear what the people are shouting in the streets and squares. You know what the people want. Well, the shah will have to submit to the people's will.

[Question] A large popular demonstration has been organized for Sunday--human rights day and the eve of Ashura, which celebrates the sacrifice of Imam Husayn. Will you be taking part?

[Answer] Ayatollah Taleghani and I will march at the head of the procession.

[Question] Will there be more bloodshed?

[Answer] Maybe, but we will do our utmost to insure that the march--a peaceful march--is an orderly one. If any incidents occur, it will only be the work of agents provocateurs. Sanjabi smiles inscrutably and says: "The people's movement is powerful and is developing more and more throughout the country. The movement will continue its action until all its objectives have been attained."

AFGHANISTAN

FOREIGN MINISTER AMIN INTERVIEWED BY BUDAPEST RADIO

LD120048Y Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2120 GMT 11 Dec 78 LD

[Interview of Hafezollah Amin, Afghan deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, on the "Interviews in Kabul" program by Miklos Keleti, place and date not given--recorded, Amin speaking in Dari with Hungarian translation superimposed]

[Text] [Amin] Positive nonalinement is the fundamental principle of Afghanistan's foreign policy. This is the definitive of relations with our neighbors. Let us take these countries one by one. The Soviet Union was the power which first recognized Afghanistan's total independence in 1919. In April this year, it was Moscow again which first announced recognition of the new revolutionary regime: Traditionally good contacts received new impetus since forces endeavoring toward a people's democracy came to power in our country. It would be difficult to list the many areas where we have received assistance from the Soviet Union. During the last 6 months, our northern neighbor gave aid of $120 million. Soviet-Afghan relations even in the earlier regime was a good example of equality, of cooperation free from intervention. I believe this tendency will strengthen in the future.

As for the other three neighbors: At the moment, we have no questions at issue with the Chinese People's Republic and we hope we will not have any in the future either. During the history of our relations with Pakistan, the problem of the divided Pashtu people was a source of much conflict. This unsettled issue must be solved at all events, but only through peaceful negotiations. Peaceful coexistence is the starting point of our relations with Iran.

[Keleti] A serious internal crisis threatens the shah's regime in Iran. What is your opinion on this?

[Amin] I am not qualified to comment on Iran's internal issues. I can only say that the people of Afghanistan have always been in solidarity with the Iranian people, and this feeling is independent of the changing internal political situation.

[Keleti] As deputy prime minister you direct not only foreign policy but also participate in working out internal reforms. Which change during the past 6 months in Afghanistan do you consider to be the most important one?

[Amin] If I must pick one, it is land reform. It is true that its realization has not yet begun; we are still working on the program plan. According to (?our) calculations, land distribution will affect 11 million peasants. This will be the most important step on the road leading away from feudalism. Land distribution will only be the first stage in Agrarian reform, as afterward we would like to create the organs of common management cooperatives as soon as possible.

BANGLADESH

LABOR PARTY NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS

BK111630Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The Bangladesh Labor Party has announced that it will not participate in the coming parliamentary elections. A press release of the party signed by the acting general secretary, Mr Mohammad Shamsul Haq, said that the decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the party's central organizing committee in Dacca today.

INDIA

SITUATION IN JAMMU QUIET AFTER COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES

BK091650Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government has decided to hold a judicial inquiry into the Poonch firing on the 2d of this month. A boy was killed in the firing.

Meanwhile, the law and order situation in the border town of Rajauri has improved after it was handed over to the army yesterday. According to the district authorities, the situation is completely under control now. No untoward incident was reported today. But as a precautionary measure, a curfew has been imposed on the town. An agency report says that 135 people were injured in yesterday's clash between two groups of people.

In Jammu, an all-party committee has expressed its grave concern over what it called "deliberate attempts" by certain elements to divert the discontent of the people of the Jammu region into communal channels. The committee said that nothing could be more detrimental to the interest of the region than to communalize the situation.

Dr Karan Singh, MP, has described the situation in Jammu region as explosive. Speaking to newsmen in Jammu today, he urged the chief minister, Sheikh Abdullah, to accept the genuine demands of the people of the Jammu region. The government should take effective steps to remove regional imbalances. He condemned the arrest of Mr Bhim Singh, MLA [member of the legislative assembly].

Replying to a question, Dr Karan Singh said that there cannot be any merger of the Congress with the Congress-I. He said he will oppose it.

ZAMBIA'S LISULO LEAVES DELHI FOR AGRA, HOME

BK090914Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The Zambian prime minister, Mr Daniel Lisulo, was given a warm sendoff this morning when he left New Delhi for Agra en route to Zambia. He was seen off at the airport by the prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, and the external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee. Among others present at the airport were a number of top civil and military officials and diplomats.

Talking to newsmen before his departure, the Zambian prime minister expressed happiness over his visit and said that he was going back with good memories.

Joint Communique

BK1013l4Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Dec 78 BK

[Text] India and Zambia have called upon the Western powers to stop immediately the supply of arms and oil to the racist regimes in southern Africa. A joint communique issued at the end of the Zambian Prime Minister Mr Lisulo's visit to this country says: Otherwise the turmoil in the African Continent would endanger peace and security in other parts of the world. It noted with concern that the situation in southern Africa has reached a flashpoint and called upon the international community to increase material, moral and political support to the liberation movements there. Mr Lisulo and the prime minister, Mr Desai, also called for tightening and extending the scope of the UN sanctions against the illegal regimes in southern Africa. About Zimbabwe, they urged Britain, as the responsible colonial and administering authority, to take immediate action to deal effectively with the situation. It was agreed that any negotiated settlement should be based on the original Anglo-American proposals.

On bilateral matters, the communique said that the two sides expressed satisfaction on the conclusion of the first trade agreement. Mr Desai and Mr Lisulo agreed to the holding of periodic consultations between the two countries at an appropriate level. The communique says Mr Lisulo invited Mr Desai to visit Zambia, and the visit is expected to take place at an early date.

DESAI MOVES TO PUNISH GANDHI FOR CONTEMPT

BK0813l0Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Mr Morarji Desai has said that he came to the conclusion in all conscience that Mrs Indira Gandhi is guilty of grave misdemeanors against the privileges of the Lok Sabha. He was moving in the Lok Sabha today a substantive motion urging the house to agree with the findings of the Privileges Committee, which held Mrs Gandhi and two others guilty of breach of privilege and contempt of the house.

The prime minister said he was moving the motion with a heavy heart against the person who has played a prominent part in the political life of the country. He was doing it in the discharge of his bounden duty to protect and preserve the cherished and noble privileges of the house. He advised the members to consider the issue without prejudicing their minds with the tragic episode of her emergency rule and also without attaching any importance to her election from Chikmagalur.

Earlier, the Lok Sabha decided by a voice vote to take into consideration the Privileges Committee's report. Mr Desai's motion authorizes the speaker to call Mrs Gandhi and two others on a specified date to hear them on the question of punishment and to receive the punishment decided by the house. While Mrs Gandhi would be in her seat, the other two, Mr R.K. Dhawan and Mr D. Sen, are to be produced before the bar of the house.

The leader of the opposition, Mr C.N. Stephen, raised objections about the procedure suggested by Mr Desai. The speaker said the motion and objections to it will be considered on Tuesday after the weekend and Moharram holidays. He pointed out that there are also other motions on the subject.

NEPAL

SOME MINISTERS RESIGN; PORTFOLIOS SHUFFLED

BK101524Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 10 Dec 78 BK

[Text] His majesty the king has accepted the resignations extended to the prime minister by Minister Mr Bhekh Bahadur Thapa, Minister Mr Pitambar Dhoj Khati, and Minister of State Dr Harka Bahadur Gurung from their respective posts in which they have said that it will be proper for them to dissociate themselves from the respective posts as the commission on the prevention of misuse of authority is engaged in taking some actions in connection with some subjects related with ministries with which they had been connected from time to time.

His majesty the king has thanked them for honestly discharging their duty.

In a notice published today by the principal press secretariat of his majesty the king it was stated that his majesty the king, at the recommendation of the prime minister, has reallocated some portfolios as follows: Prime Minister Mr Kirti Nidhi Bista--royal palace affairs, defense and finance; Minister Mr Damodar Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana--land reform and law and justice; Minister of State Mr Pashupati Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana--education, tourism and works and transport; Minister of State Mr Shri Bhadra Sharma--general administration and industry and commerce.

AFP Gives Background

BK101748Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1728 GMT 10 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Katmandu, Dec 10 (AFP)--Three important ministers of Premier Kirti Nidhi Bista's cabinet have resigned on "moral ground" following an investigation against 22 top Nepalese officials by a high-powered commission for prevention of abuse of authority, it was announced tonight.

The three, who presented their resignations to King Birendra through Premier Bista, are Finance Minister Dr Bhekh Bahadur Thapa, Commerce and Industry Minister Pitambar Dhoj Khati and State Minister for Tourism Dr Harka Bahadur Gurung.

The portfolios handled by them were divided among the sitting ministers of Bista's government.

Accordingly Premier Bista got the finance portfolio besides his defence and royal palace affairs; Damodar Shumshere Rana got land reform, law and justice; State Minister Pashupati Shumshere Rana got tourism and public works besides his education portfolio; while Shri Bhadra Sharma was given commerce and industry portfolio besides his general administration.

The commission headed by former Chief Justice A. P. Singh who recorded statements of former Prime Minister Dr Tulsi Giri and these three outgoing ministers in connection with the 150 million rupees ($12.5 million) worth of carpet exports with "over invoice" 17 months ago.

In this connection the commission had issued "show cause" notices with suspension order to 22 officials of Finance, Commerce and Industry Ministeries and central and national commercial banks last week.

In 3 months unscrupulous Indian businessmen with the collaboration of Nepalese businessmen had exported 150 million rupees worth of Nepalese woolen carpets mainly to Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan at 12 to 20 times higher prices in order to earn 60 percent of foreign exchange entitled bonus.

The 22 officials against whom the commission is making judicial inquiry included the governor and deputy governor of Nepal Rastra Bank (central bank), the former finance secretary, the general manager of National Commercial Bank, joint secretary of finance, former commerce and industry secretary, the director general of custom department and the chief financial controller of the central bank.

In view of the growing volume of carpet exports with "over invoice" mainly to earn the foreign exchange entitled bonus, the Nepalese Finance Ministry had suspended the bonuses in suspect cases since July last and accordingly saved 90 million rupees worth of foreign exchange.

King Birendra had constituted the high power commission for prevention of abuse of authority in order to check corruption and abuse of authority.

In order to save the position of his three cabinet colleagues, Premier Bista is understood to have tried his level best. However the commission chairman Mr Singh had threatened to resign if the action of the commission is withdrawn.

These outgoing ministers however felt that they were held morally responsible for these alleged export irregularities and therefore resigned from their respective posts.

PAKISTAN

BHUTTO'S LAWYER, MRS BHUTTO CLASH OVER HANDLING OF CASE

BK121400Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1341 GMT 12 Dec 78 BK

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Dec 12 (AFP)--The defence lawyers of former Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto clashed with his wife here today over how to conduct his appeal from a murder conviction. At the start of a Supreme Court hearing, Mr Bhutto's leading barrister, Bakhtiar announced that Mrs Nusrat Bhutto had asked him to submit two applications to the court but that he would rather resign as Mr Bhutto's defender than do so.

The hearing was suspended for two hours so the lawyer and the Begum Nusrat Bhutto could leave the courtroom to confer with the ex-premier in nearby Rawalpindi prison. When the hearing resumed, Mr Bakhtiar said the "misunderstanding" had been cleared up. He continued his arguments for Mr Bhutto without submitting the two requests.

Mr Bakhtiar, a former attorney-general, later told AFP: "Mr Bhutto told me to carry on the case as I wanted."

The begum was pale and obviously annoyed throughout the hearing.

Mr Bakhtiar declined to reveal what requests she wanted to submit.

Mr Bakhtiar said he might complete his plea in about a week, and that Mr Bhutto himself would then be authorized to appear before the Supreme Court.

SRI LANKA

MINISTER TELLS PRESS CONFERENCE OF TRADE WITH PRC

BK111724Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1445 GMT 11 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Colombo, Dec 11 (AFP)--A delegation from China will arrive in Sri Lanka on Thursday to negotiate a trade protocol for next year under the trade and payments agreement between the two countries. Under this agreement Sri Lanka sells rubber to China in exchange for rice and the two countries also trade in other commodities.

Sri Lanka will, however, import much less rice from China next year than in previous years, Trade Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told newsmen here today. Under the current year's agreement, Sri Lanka has contracted to purchase 200,000 tons of rice from China in exchange for 49,000 tons of rubber. Mr Athulathmudali told a press conference that Sri Lanka is now near self-sufficient in rice and would therefore import only around 70,000 tons of the commodity from China next year according to present calculations.

He said China was, however, expected to continue to import around 49,000 tons of rubber from Sri Lanka next year. This would mean that Sri Lanka would have to import greater quantities of other commodities from China in order to balance the payments. The trade minister said other imports from China would include kerosene oil, paraffin wax and textiles.

The trade and payments agreement between Sri Lanka and China (also known as the rubber for rice agreement) has been in operation for the past 26 years. It is renewed every 5 years and a protocol fixing commodities and prices is signed annually.

This year Sri Lanka has contracted to import a total of 300,000 tons of rice--200,000 from China and 100,000 from Pakistan. Next year Sri Lanka is expected to reduce imports to about 100,000 tons--about 70,000 from China and 30,000 from Pakistan.

The trade minister said Sri Lanka was now closer to self-sufficiency in rice than ever before. But for the devastation caused by the recent cyclone imports next year would have been much less.

ARSON ATTEMPT MADE ON OPPOSITION HEADQUARTERS IN JAFFNA

BK101337Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Dec 78 BK

[Text] In Sri Lanka, there has been an attempt to set fire to the headquarters of the main opposition party, the Tamil United Liberation Front in Jaffna, the capital of the Tamil-dominated northern province.

According to reports reaching Colombo today, about 10 unidentified persons hurled two petrol bombs at the building yesterday. The fire was promptly extinguished and there was no serious damage.